

FEDERATION



Papar of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

ISSUE 3

Munich protests against the German Governments asylum policy



“The voices of anti deportation protestors echoed around Munich Saturday 8 December”

On the 8 December the Campaign Group Caravan to Defend Refugee and Migrants and No Borders supported

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Dashty Jamal Statement for the Members of Switzerland Parliament



Dear MPs of Switzerland

I note that on May 4 2007 your parliament decided to deport Kurdish people seeking asylum to the three governates of Duhok, Sulaimania and Hawler in Iraq. The Swiss Parliament has declared the three areas as 'safe and secure'. I am writing on behalf of The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees to express our profound distress at this decision and to stress that Kurdistan is neither 'safe' nor 'secure'. The consequences of your decision on Kurdish asylum seekers in Switzerland will be grave. Many will be made destitute and caused untold suffering. In spite of the fact that asylum seekers have been living as members of society for the last five years. They will now become isolated from that society. On behalf of Kurdish asylum seekers in Europe and their families the IFIR strongly expresses its concern and disagreement at this decision.

As you are aware, the people of Iraq have been suffering for the last seventeen years as the result of US hegemony in the region after the Gulf War in 1991. The media coverage shows the suffering of the victims of this war on daily basis. Iraq is now a failed state and sectarian violence, unemployment and instability are pervasive in the country. Therefore, , the Iraqi people have been forced to flee their country and seek asylum in either neighbouring countries or European countries *Continued on page 2>>>>*

No to Deportation No to Racism

>>>from page1 Dashty Jamal Statement

According to the statistics, four million Iraqis have fled the country.



Naming Kurdistan as a safe region by European countries is mistaken and profoundly misleading. Kurdistan and the Kurdish people are living in uncertain and insecure conditions and the future is unknown. The recent incursion of Turkey and Iran has exacerbated the already unstable conditions in the region. The two Kurdish political parties are neither democratic nor competent to govern Kurdistan. They rely on US policy for the region and US does not have a clear and accurate agenda. Therefore, justifying the deportation of Kurdish asylum seekers on the grounds that the region is safe is clearly incorrect and is an inhuman policy. The Kurdish authority is corrupt and consistently violates the principles of human rights and democracy. Many individuals have been imprisoned by the Kurdish authority because of their political views and for speaking out against the injustice in Kurdistan. Civil society is under the control of the political parties and the Kurdish authority has pressured the trade unions and human rights campaigners and does not allow them to operate independently.

We urge you to demand the Switzerland government reverse the decision to deport Kurdish asylum seekers. Additionally, the Government must not mistreat Iraqi asylum seekers and must lift all legal and economic pressures on them and allow them to stay in Switzerland. We are ready to cooperate and prepare evidence regarding the conditions of asylum seekers and deportees.

Regards

Dashty Jamal

Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

>>>from page1 Munich protests against the German Governments

by International Federation of Iraqi Refugees organized a march around Munich. The aim of the March was to send a message to the German Conservative party to stop deporting Iraqi Refugees. More than 500 people gathered to attend the protest. Amongst the protestors were the renowned lawyers Angelica Lix, Sack Micheil and Schlier. The

following German parties sent representatives to the Demonstration: SAV; Communist Party of Germany (DKP) and the German Green Party. The demonstrators took five hours to march round the city of Munich. The March started from the Court House in Munich and marched past the Munich Immigration Department. Representatives from International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and German anti deportation campaigners gave speeches in German, Sorani and German at the beginning and end of the demonstration. The Caravan to Defend Refugee and Migrants had a van with a sound system that followed the demonstration. Organisers from the Caravan to Defend Refugees and Migrants and young International Federation Iraqi Refugee supporters chanted the following slogans through the sound system joined by the rest of the demonstrators; "No to Deportation of Iraqi Asylum seekers" "Iraq is unsafe" "Equality for all".



The Demonstration was very important to combat racism in the area at the start of the demonstration two workmen shouted at the demonstration "look at them on our streets". However, they were answered by German protestors on the demonstration. The demonstration was also joined by Iraqi migrants leaving shops and restaurants where they worked. The demonstration was filmed by a European television channel. The demonstration was shown on German and European news stations on the evening news. The television channel also interviewed Dashty Jamal from International Federation of Iraqi refugees and other anti asylum campaigners on the demonstration.

IFIR called a meeting in the evening following the demonstration for IFIR German representatives Erfan Karim, Baker Hamad and Dashty Jamal Secretary of IFIR. The meeting gave the opportunity for many young Iraqi asylum seekers to ask questions and talk about the problems they are facing in Germany. The following issues were discussed at the meeting: the importance of making links with trade unions, refugee and human right organisations and German MPs; how to raise anti deportation issues in the media; how to work around Europe and build a strong movement around Europe against deportation; future plans against forcible deportation.

Human right in 21 century



Dashty Jamal's speech in Munich Demo on Saturday 8 December 2007

Iraqi refugees have a right refugee status

Hello I am Dashty Jamal. On behalf of The international Federation of Iraqi Refugees I would like to thank No Borders and the Campaign group Caravan for inviting me to speak to you today. We are gathered here today to send the German Government a message to stop forcibly deporting Iraqi asylum seekers.

Together we are showing there is a progressive humanitarian voice to change the conservative policy of the German Government.

Following the fall of Saddams regime the German Government have been pressurising Iraqi asylum seekers, refusing their cases and generally pressuring them to leave Germany. more than twenty thousand Iraqi asylum seekers are under threat of return to Iraq.

From July to October 2007 the German Government has returned one Iraqi asylum seeker a week from Frankfurt to Arbil in Northern Iraq. This inhuman policy must be stopped!

Iraqis today are fleeing from one of the worst situations in the world. The USA and its allies attacked Iraq five years ago under the pretence of ending Saddams regime and stopping weapons of mass destruction. However the continuing occupation has proven this not to be true.

The attack on Iraq is part of the US's plan for a new world order

Several thousand Iraqis have been killed during the occupation. Many more have been forced to leave their homes.

There are thousands of displaced people within Iraq, many more are fleeing Iraq and are settling in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and other countries surrounding Iraq. The war on Iraq and the continuing occupation is the biggest crises in the region for 40 years.

The situation is so bad with the sectarian and Ethnocentric parties fighting the USA, and those loyal to the USA both are engaged in all sorts of crimes.

Many civilians have fallen victims of this terrorist contest. Neither the terrorist groups nor the American troops know any limits to killing and destruction.

Several European countries are saying that Kurdistan is safe. Kurdistan is not an independent state and is not part of a stable state.

Four million Iraqi Kurds have been living in uncertainty for the last seventeen years. The future of the Kurds is unknown. The US and European countries apparently do not have a clear plan for the Kurdish people in Kurdistan. The two political parties (KDP and PUK) have been unable to govern Kurdistan.

The violation of human rights is ongoing many women are killed on a daily basis. Campaigners from women's rights and human rights organisations are threatened from the Kurdish authorities.

Recent reports from the US State Department, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International show that people are tortured in prisons in Kurdistan and the human rights record in Northern Iraq is poor. I believe the coalition forces have some responsibility for the worsening situation in Iraq. I believe that

The coalition forces should withdraw from Iraq and leave Iraq for Iraqis.

an Iraqi government should be established on the basis of secular principles rather than on a sectarian or ethnic basis.

A referendum for the Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan should stay on the political agenda and the Kurds should be given a chance to decide on establishing their own state. Whilst they are in Iraq we will remain in Europe.

This campaign is very important to stand against the Governments anti asylum policy. We need to work together with Trade Unions, Human and refugee rights organisations and the progressive people in Europe to set up a coalition to stop deportation, detention and racism. our demands on the German Government are

to stop deporting Iraqi asylum seekers.

Give full refugee status for all Iraqi asylum seekers.

The right to work

Working together makes us stronger to build a movement around Europe against deportation.

Long Live our Solidarity Asylum rights are Human Rights.



IFIR demanding freedom press in Kurdistan!



The Kurdistan National Assembly recently ratified a law against freedom of the press in Kurdistan, which is opposed to all international norms and human rights principles.

In the name of (general norms and security of the region), the Kurdistan Regional Government-KRG has been harassing, arresting and torturing many journalists in the last few years. Furthermore, under the excuse of preserving general norms and protecting the security of the KRG many freedom campaigners and trade union members have been arrested and assaulted by the KRG authorities.

Therefore, we demand the following:

That a free press will be allowed in Kurdistan without any restrictions and the principles of international law and human rights principles will be complied with.

All demonstrations and public meetings should be allowed.

Abolish the journalist law which was ratified by the Kurdistan National Assembly on 13 December 2007.

“The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees supports any progressive organizations who campaign and work for a better future in Kurdistan”

December 15-2007

Media Release:

Iraqi Asylum seekers were handcuffed and beaten by the Home Office guards when they were removed

We have already informed you about the Home Office's plan to forcefully return Mr Arian Kamal Aziz (An Iraqi Kurd asylum seeker) on 14th December 2007. Arian called me from the Immigration section of Jordan Airport today in the afternoon. He said that “he was forcefully taken to the plane RJ112 (Heathrow to Amman) yesterday around 1700 hours with another Iraqi Kurd asylum seeker Mr Hassan Hammad Mahmud who was already handcuffed and being beaten by the people deporting him who had no conscience. That was

after Mr Mahmud attempted to resist removal by putting a razor blade on his neck and threatening to attempt suicide if they got closer to him. After they removed the blade from him he was been beaten by two huge monsters who were asked to put them on the plane to return him back to Iraq.

Mr Mahmuds' hands are swollen and bruised because of the beatings and his handcuff was so tight that it was almost stopping the blood supply to his hands”.

Mr Aziz also said that “each of us was accompanied by two huge racist men and we were treated as criminals and we were sworn at several times and subjected to racist remarks. At the moment we are imprisoned in the Immigration section and the English escorts left us to rest in the hotel. They said they will be back in two hours and it is seven hours and they have not returned. I think they have left us in the hands of the Jordanian Immigration officials who might want to send us back to Baghdad with a group of Arab people from Baghdad”.

Mr Aziz also said that “Together with Mr Mahmud we are really broken down in tears and we are in a very bad psychological state. I have two family members in the UK, I have been there since 2001, I have not had any convictions. What was my crime? Nothing apart from seeking asylum from the UK. Seeking asylum in the UK is a crime according to the UK Home Office. Asylum seekers in the UK are treated like criminals and they are not regarded as the human beings by the UK Government”. “We are waiting and unsure about our fate” Mr Aziz hung up crying.

Dashty Jamal

Secretary of IFIR

The British government is continuing to forcibly return Iraqi Kurdish Asylum seekers

Mr Arian Kamal Aziz; an Iraqi Kurdish Asylum seeker has no convictions. Arian has been told he will be forcibly returned to Iraq on 14th December 2007, following the refusal of his asylum claim by the Home Office (Ref. No. K1081158). Arian is currently being detained in Portsmouth detention centre.

The Coalition and the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is calling on Amnesty and all other refugee and human rights organizations to protest against this decision. Please encourage friends and colleagues to write protest letters to the Home Secretary, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P demanding an end of forcible deportation to Northern Iraq.

**Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq
International Federation of Iraqi Refugees
10-12-2007**

Asylum Rights are Human Rights

Returned refugees still in danger in Iraq

Monday November 26, 2007

The Guardian

On 20 November 2005 the first flight of forcibly returned Iraqi asylum-seekers left from Brize Norton Military Airbase in Oxford. The Home Office has now stopped flying Iraqi Kurds on military aircraft. From September 2007 Kurds have been forcibly deported via a Jordanian airline to Jordan and from there to Erbil airport in Northern Iraq. As we write, Rozhar Omer is being held at Heathrow by two body guards. He was due to be escorted on to a plane flying to Jordan and then on to Erbil on 22 November 2007 at 4pm.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees still maintains Iraq is not a suitable place to return "failed" asylum-seekers to. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees recently issued a report confirming that northern Iraq is unsafe. Iraqi Kurdistan's two ruling parties, the KDP and PUK, regularly imprison and attack trade unionist activists, socialists and other political opponents. Moreover, in addition to the threat of an Iraqi civil war, there is an external threat from Turkey and Iran, both of which have bombarded Kurdish villages in recent months. Those returned to Iraqi Kurdistan face not only poverty and unemployment, but the threat of harassment, torture and death.

That is why IFIR is calling for the immediate suspension of all removals to Iraq, and the right for all Iraqis living in the UK to study, work and access public services. Dashty Jamal, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

John McDonnell MP, Karen Johnson, Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq, Mick Duncan, No Sweat campaign, Sofie Buckland, National Union of Students executive

http://www.guardian.co.uk/immigration/story/0,2217109,00.html#article_continue

Royal Jordanian Airline Stop accepting bookings for the deportation of Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers



Royal Jordanian airlines are being used to forcibly deport UK Iraqi asylum seekers back to Iraq via Jordan! The Home Office has been using Royal Jordanian airlines to deport Iraqi Asylum seekers for one year. More than 20 Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers have been deported to Northern Iraq via Jordan. International Federation of Iraqi Refugees believe Royal Jordanian Airline have accepted more bookings from the Home office to deport Iraqi asylum seekers. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) recognises that Jordan has made a considerable contribution to the current refugee crises in Iraq. Which is why we are dismayed by your decision to assist the UK Government with its' policy to forcibly deport refugees back to such an unstable area. Prior to using a Jordanian airline the UK Government was forced to use military aircraft from Brize Norton to deport asylum seekers back to Arbil airport in Northern Iraq. It has been reported to IFIR by asylum seekers returned on Royal Jordanian airlines that they are bullied by Home Office security guards who threaten to handcuff and beat them if they do not keep quiet.

Media coverage shows the daily suffering of the Iraqi people. Thousands of people are displaced within Iraq victims of sectarian violence and the continuing occupation of Iraq. Many Human Rights campaigners and Journalists are routinely imprisoned for talking against the Kurdish Authorities. The Kurdish region has also been bombarded from both Turkey and Iran leading to further destabilisation in the region. The problems and suffering of the Iraqi asylum seekers will not be solved without your help. Human Rights campaigners, Trade unionists and MPs can play a crucial part in our campaign for the rights of Iraqi asylum seekers. Please send protest letters to Royal Jordanian Airline calling on them to:

not to accept any more bookings from the UK Home Office for the purpose of deporting Iraqi Kurdish asylum Seekers; *Continued on page 6>>>>*

>>>>from page **Royal Jordanian Airline**
cancel all previous bookings from the Home Office for the purpose of deporting Iraqi Kurdish asylum Seekers immediately;

if Royal Jordanian continue to deport Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers say you will not use Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Please send letters of protests to the address below and copy to IFIR, PO Box1575, Ilford, IG1 3BZ, London, email d.jamal@ntlworld.com and Karen.Johnson@btinternet.com

Royal Jordanian Airlines, Space One, 1 Beadon Rd, Hammersmith, London W6 OEA.

fax: 0208 748 5251 email: lontbrj@rj.com

Regards

Dashty Jamal

Karen Johnson

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, Coalition to stop Deportations to Iraq

www.csdiraq.com

Media Release For Immediate Release

Canada urged to resettle more Iraqi refugees

Montreal. As governments gather in Geneva to discuss the world response to the crisis facing Iraqi refugees, the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) and Iraqi community organizations in Canada today called on the Canadian government to resettle more Iraqi refugees.

"The ongoing daily violence in Iraq has forced many, many people to flee threats to their lives," said Elizabeth McWeeny, CCR President. "We are dismayed that Canada has so far opened its door to only a very few Iraqi refugees, even though many Canadians have come forward with offers of sponsorship. There is an enormous crisis facing Iraqi refugees, but from the Canadian government there is nothing but deafening silence."

The CCR, the Iraqi Community Centre (Montréal), Iraqi Federation of Refugees (Guelph), Iraqi Minorities Refugee Advocacy, Salam Social Club, Iraqi Chaldean Refugee Community (Toronto), Asmaro Chaldean Society (Windsor), Babylonian Ethnic Society and St. Maratken Community Society Inc are concerned Canada has given no indication of any specific commitments to respond to the crisis facing Iraqi refugees. Worse, the Canadian government rejects about half of the Iraqis currently in Syria or Jordan applying as privately sponsored refugees. The Canadian government has failed to announce any target for the resettlement of government-assisted Iraqi refugees.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2 million Iraqis have sought refuge in nearby countries, primarily in Syria, Jordan

and Lebanon. In addition, an estimated 1.9 million people are displaced internally within Iraq.

On April 17-18 the UNHCR is hosting in Geneva the International Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Iraq and in Neighbouring Countries. One of the goals of the conference is to develop an international effort in order to share the responsibility currently borne by neighbouring states.



One easy way for the Canadian government to respond would be simply to work with the many organizations in Canada who have already indicated an interest in resettling Iraqi refugees. Under Canadian immigration law, Canadian organizations or groups of individuals can apply to privately sponsor refugees in need of resettlement, in return for an undertaking to assist them on arrival in Canada. Many organizations have applied to sponsor Iraqi refugees, but have been shocked by the high refusal rate by Canadian visa officers. Refused Iraqis include families that have endured death threats and kidnappings. For example, one refused family had had a young daughter kidnapped and killed. Many of those refused are from minority groups known to be particularly at risk in Iraq.

Last year it is estimated that only a few hundred Iraqi refugees were resettled to Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada has not made statistics available). In contrast to past years, the government has not even made public its target resettlement numbers by region for 2007.

Few Iraqi refugees are able to make the journey to Canada in order to make a refugee claim here: in 2006, only 179 claims by Iraqis were referred to the Immigration and Refugee Board (out of a total of 22,873 claims). Those who do make it face a long wait for a hearing, which in some cases means prolonged separation from family members living with daily risk of violence in Iraq.

Working together under one umbrella makes us stronger



Dashty Jamal's speech in asylum support meeting

I would like to thank you for coming tonight to this AGM of the Asylum Appeal Support Project.

The FIR provides essential support and assistance for Iraqi Kurds. FIR was established in response to the increasing difficulties faced by Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers within the UK. Iraqi asylum seekers have been encountering problems in the UK since the fall of the Saddam regime. The objective of the FIR is to enhance the quality of the life of Iraqi refugees living in the U.K by relieving financial hardship and distress. Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK face a climate of fear and suspicion. In the past two years many Iraqis' have been facing the threat of forcible deportation and horrific problems of isolation, poverty, homelessness and racial violence. Many of those we support are based within the large hotels and hostels within London and other cities across the UK. Others are homeless and living either on the floors of friends' homes or on the streets. The reasons for these problems are wide ranging from experiences within Iraq through to their treatment and experience within the UK. The poverty faced by many combined with the lack of available accommodation causes chronic problems. In addition, the dispersal process of refugees and asylum seekers across the UK has caused severe isolation and depression for many and in some areas racial attacks upon refugees and asylum seekers are taking place.

The media has intensified these problems by altering the truth relating to asylum seekers. Words such 'bogus' and 'illegal immigrants' appear in the mainstream press. Having signed up to the 1951 Convention on Refugees, all refugees have the right to apply for asylum in the UK and contrary to media myths over 50% of asylum claims are given permission to stay. Media misrepresentations of asylum seekers are having serious effects in terms of how asylum seekers are received in dispersal areas and create tensions between different communities.

The government has licensed mass poverty, homelessness and destitution through ensuring that

many asylum seekers live at most on £37 per week. Asylum seekers can not claim welfare benefits and there is now no support for those applying inside the UK, which is creating havoc amongst Iraqi asylum seekers.

The FIR has organised 6 cultural and social events as well as educational seminars to help make refugees aware of new laws and regulations that might affect them especially with regard to Section 4. These events help to combat isolation amongst members of our community and are a useful way for members of our community to meet with others and to develop friendships.

I would like to remind you that 20 November, last week was the second anniversary of the first forcible deportation of Iraqi Kurds back to Arbil, Northern Iraq by Military aircraft from Brize Norton, Oxford. The nature of the Iraqi Kurds return was humiliating and the Federation believes breaks with the Human Rights Charter and the Geneva Convention. They were pushed out of the detention centres by armed guards, handcuffed and put into a coach and transferred to the airbase. Once on the flight they were given flak jackets prior to being pushed out onto the runway at Arbil left to be picked up by KRG officials. The people who were deported were civilians they were not criminals.

However after a successful campaign to highlight the injustice of the way the Iraqi Kurds were being treated the Home Office no longer uses military aircraft to forcibly deport Iraqi Kurds from September this year the Home Office has started to deport Iraqi Kurds in ones and twos in chartered planes via Jordan.

Iraqis have fled from one of the worst situations in the world. You can see the suffering and struggles of the Iraqi people under the occupation. Iraqis have been forced to join the sectarian groups, occupation troops or insurgents in order to get a job and live in Iraq. The Iraqi people have lost their independence and are unable to get a job without joining one of these groups. The US and Iraqi government have been unable to stabilise the country over the last four years and as a result of that four million Iraqis have been forced to leave Iraq. Many Iraqi refugees are now living in neighbouring countries Syria, Egypt and Lebanon in very bad conditions. The media alleges that Iraqi refugees are leaving these neighbouring countries because the security situation in Iraq has improved. The UK government alleges that Kurdistan is safe and stable. This is not true the US and UK government do not have a clear plan for the Kurdish people in Kurdistan. Moreover, the Kurdish authorities and the two political parties (KDP and PUK) have been unable to govern Kurdistan adequately. Violation of human rights is ongoing. A recent report from the US State Department shows that people are tortured in prisons in Kurdistan and the human rights record is poor. Moreover a recent

STOP DEPORTATION FLIGHTS TO KURDISTAN

>>UNHCR report confirms that Kurdistan is unsafe and no one should be forcibly deported to Kurdistan. Additionally, the UK government declares on its website that British citizens should not travel to Iraq including Kurdistan this shows that the Iraqi people have been forced to leave their country because of current conditions in Iraq. The UK government should accept its part of the responsibility for the deteriorating situation in Iraq.

It should be recognised that the coalition forces have some responsibility for the deteriorating situation in Iraq. I believe that the coalition forces should withdraw from Iraq and leave Iraq for Iraqis. Additionally, an Iraqi government should be established on the basis of secular principles rather than on a sectarian or ethnic basis. Also a referendum for the Kurdish in Iraqi Kurdistan should stay on the political agenda. The Kurds should be given a chance to decide on establishing their own state. In this way the sources of the problems causing Iraqis to flee could be solved. Nevertheless, in the mean time the UK government should help solve the problems of the Iraqi asylum seekers who are within the UK.

We need your support to help Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers. We need to work together to save Iraqi society help us to:

Put pressure on the government to stop deporting Kurdish asylum seekers.

Reopen the files of those asylum seekers whose files have been closed and deal with them according to European human rights law.

Allow asylum seekers to work in the UK and provide accommodation and public funds for asylum seekers in order to end destitution.

The problems and suffering of the Iraqi asylum seekers will not be solved without your help and cooperation. Individuals, MPs and human rights campaigners can play a crucial part in our campaign for the rights of Iraqi asylum seekers and to establish a civil and secular society in Iraq. We can also establish a relief centre to help Iraqi refugees and collect donations in order to ease their sufferings.

The Home Office has deported 100 Iraqi asylum seekers so far please help us to ensure no other Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers sent back to Iraq.

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.**



Tune in to ASO TV station

To hear the

**Voice of Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers
every Tuesday**

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