FEDERATION

Papar of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

ISSUE 4

Stop handcuffing and manhandling asylum seekers in the detention centres and forcibly deporting them!!



End detention and deportation

"On 27 March 2008 the British government sent 60 Kurdish asylum seekers back to Hawler (Erbil) airport. The operation was carried out secretively and using with German aircraft. the authorities turned a blind eye to humanitarian principle and human rights laws by this action and took no notice of any moral considerations. The deportees were abused and beaten (some so badly their faces bled) by KRG security personnel upon arrival in Hawler.

The deportees who are victims of war now face severe problems in Iraq. The deportation may also encourage other European countries to take similar actions.

We hope individuals who are fighting for freedom and human rights will condemning these actions and join us on 11 April to demonstrate and call for abolition of the policy of forcible removal of asylum seekers and fight for our asylum rights.

We ask all human and refugee rights organisations, labour organisations and anti-war organisations to support the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and the Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq as actively as possible in our struggle for refugee rights, and stopping deportation.

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Refugee crises struggling between European Countries and Kurdistan



On Wednesday 19 March 2008. International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR Kurdistan organised a press Conference in Chra Khan hall for Dashty Jamal (General Secretary for International Federation of Iraqi Refugees),

Jalal Saeed (Canadian Federation representative) Sarwar Rashid (one of the immigrants who had been handcuffed and forcibly deported to Kurdistan through HAWLER Airport) and Baiz Abdulla from Colnbrook detention centre via telephone

Bashdar Alis opened the conference by giving a brief outline of the work of the Federation. He welcomed the press and guests and introduced Dashty Jamal. Dashty outlined the latest changes in European countries policy against Iraqi and Kurdish refugees. At the same time he brought the journalists attention to the latest decision of the UK Governments decision to cut section 4 support from Iraqi asylum seekers leaving many destitute. Dashty also spoke of the many Iraqi asylum seekers held in detention centres across Europe prior to forcibly deporting them.

Dashty condemned secret agreements between the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and European states to accept forcibly returned asylum seekers. Dashty said these agreements break international treaties and human rights principles. He urged the KRG to cancel these agreements. In particular to stop accepting European forcibly returned asylum seekers via Arbil and other airports in the KRG region.

Continued on page 2>>>>

Solidarity with Kurdish and Iraqi Asylum seekers

To the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mr. Gordon Brown



Dear Prime Minister,

As reported in the press, on 27 March 2008 your government deported 71 Kurdish asylum seekers to Hawler, the capital city of the Kurdistan Regional Government area in Iraq. They were forcibly deported, handcuffed, injured and treated in an inhumane way. They were also treated in an uncivilised way by both British and Kurdish authorities in Hawler.

It must not be forgotten that Iraq is an unsafe country and that Iraqis have fled from dangerous conditions in Iraq. We believe that deporting Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers is a violation of the very human rights which your government has claimed to support.

The UK government had already deported 179 Kurdish asylum seekers in the last three years. This is an obvious violation of international human rights principles and breach of the Geneva Convention of 1951 which the UK government signed.

The Iraqi asylum seekers here have faced destitution and mistreatment by the Home Office since the ousting of the Iraqi regime in 2003. Many Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK have been living in appalling condition.

Iraq is suffering from many problems such as the threat of insurgency, sectarian conflict, Islamic terrorism, instability and incompetent government. Therefore Iraqis are the victims of tremendous problems and of a humanitarian crisis.

Furthermore, regional powers such as: Turkey and Iran have been destabilising Iraq by interfering in the political situation of the country by incursion and arming insurgents. It also obvious from recently published reports from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the US State Department that the Kurdish authority is not democratic in its practices and many journalists, prisoners and human rights activists are suffering from lack of freedom of expression and additionally from an unfair judicial system and inefficient institutions.

We the undersigned representatives of the Kurdish community in the UK, deportees' families and all

Iraqi asylum seekers, therefore demand an immediate cessation of the deportation of Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers.

In addition we are demanding the following:

Abolish the policy of deporting asylum seekers; allow all asylum seekers to have legal representatives to defend their rights.

Stop the inhuman policy of making Iraqi asylum seekers destitute.

Release all Iraqis currently held in detention

We look forward to hearing from you and we shall be grateful for your prompt response.

Committee of Kurdish communities in the UK: Organisations:

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees(IFIR), Kurdish Cultural Centre KCC, Kurdistan Refugee Women's Organisation.(KRWO), CHAK, Kurdistan Forum, Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Nottingham., Kurdish Project Art Centre. Wolverhampton Kurdish Community Association, Kurdish Cultural Centre -Kirklees, Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Leicester, Kurdish Syrian and British Friendship -Leeds Community, Kurdish Communities Kurdish Federation-Kirklees, Kurdish Women's Organisation- Kirklees. Renaissance Magazine. Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq(CSDI); and emrro website.

>>>from page1 Refugee crises...

Dashty summed up his speech talking about the Federations activities in and outside of Kurdistan.

Sarwar Rashid the next speaker told how he had been handcuffed and sent back from the UK to Hawler stating `the only thing he had done wrong was seeking asylum!`

The final speaker was Baiz Abdulla from Colnbrook a detention centre in the UK. Baiz spoke of pressure from UK authorities and said The Federation is our only genuine support and representative.

Following the speeches Dashty Jamal and Jalal Saeed answered questions from TV stations and local papers.

At the end of the conference Dashty Jamal vowed to the refugees and their family The Federation will continue to organise and campaign against the policy of forcible deportation of Iraqi Refugees from European Countries.

The following local and national TV stations attended the press conference:

ZAGROS TV,KALAT TV,GALI KURDISTAN TV,NEWSPAPERS ,HAWLATI ASHTI AND ASOSSIATED PRESS

MEP denounces deportations of asylum-seekers to Iraq



Jean Lambert MEP has criticized the Government's decision to return or leave destitute 1,400 Iraqi asylum-seekers, whilst Jordan and Syria have been left to cope with the exodus of millions of Iraqi citizens since the conflict began. Ms Lambert was speaking ahead of a Stop The War demonstration taking place on Saturday 15 March at 12 noon in Trafalgar Square, which is expected to attract tens of thousands Jean Lambert MEP, who is a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home **Affairs** "It is disgraceful that the UK Government is forcing Iraqi refugees back to a country that is still extremely dangerous. 80 people have been killed in shootings and bombings over the past week. No-one can honestly say that it is "Almost five million Iraqis have been displaced by violence in their country since 2003. Up to 1.5 million are living in Syria and a further 1 million have been taken into Jordan, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and the Gulf States. These countries are struggling to provide essential health services, housing and education, yet the UK Government is refusing to provide sanctuary for a 1,400 individuals. "This is yet another example of the UK Government's determination to increase the numbers of people being deported over-riding their commitments to human "The European Parliament has taken the view that no country should be forcibly returning people to Iraq and members of the Iraqi Parliament agree that return is dangerous and potentially destabilising for the "The choice being given to people is face destitution in Britain or face destitution in Iraq. This clearly is no

>>>from page1 Stop handcuffing....

choice at all."

In particular we invite you to sign the list of those calling the demonstration and making the following demands for Kurdish asylum seekers:

immediate stop to the forcibly removal of Kurdish asylum seekers and cessation of all kind of pressure on Kurdish asylum seekers.

formally recognise Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers as victimis of war and grant them the right to asylum release Kurdish asylum seekers from detention centres.

Demonstration will take place on 11 April 2008-04-08

from 12 to 2 pm

outside the Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

For more information please contact:

Dashty Jamal 07856032991, Adnan Kochar 07709435998,Aram Saeed 07729182083 Twana Saeed 07743570772, Sarwar Gharib 07761218015, Saman Sardam 07799507141, Zana 07955674802

Organised by: International Federation of Iraqi Refugees(IFIR), Kurdish Culture Centre KCC, Kurdistan Women's Refugee Organisation.(KRWO),CHAK, Kurdistan Forum. Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Nottingham, Kurdish Project Art Centre, Wolverhampton Kurdish Community Association, Kurdish Culture Centre-Kirklees. Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Leicester, Kurdish Syrian and British Friendship -Leeds Kurdish Community, Kurdish Communities Federation-Kirklees, Kurdish Women's Organisation- Kirklees, Re-live Magazine, Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq

supported by John McDonnell MP, Jean Lambert MEP, Doug Holton from Stop Deporting Children, Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, No Sweat, George Binette &Liz Leicester International officers of the Camden branch of UNISON, Estella Schmid from peace in Kurdistan Campaign &CAMPACC.

IFIR in the UK and Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq are planning a meeting in Parliament hosted by John McDonnellon Tuesday 29 April. For information please contact: d.jamal@ntlworld.com or Sarah Parker from csdiraq.on 0208-809-0633 email sarahp107@hotmail.com or Karen Johnson on 07804891082

karen8johnson@btinternet.com

"Anyone who may face detention, arrest or persecution if returned to her/his country of origin because of choices within her/his private life or if an asylum seeker joins a political party and takes part in political activities that would endanger them if returned to their home country must be granted refugee status"

Dashty Jamal meets the President of the Kurdish Parliament



Dashty Jamal General Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and Bashdar Ali IFIR representative - Kurdistan met Adnan al- Mufti the president of the Kurdish parliament.

Dashty spoke to the president of the current problems facing Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers in European countries. Explaining whilst they waited for their asylum claim to be approved they face European Countries anti asylum policies and are not allowed to work. The UK government was threatening to stop the support many Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers relied on to live, in an effort to force Iraqi asylum seekers to leave the UK. Dashty explained that many failed asylum seekers were currently being held in detention centres awaiting removal orders. Asylum seekers can be held for many months in detention centres.

Dashty asked the president to put pressure on the Kurdish Regional Government to refuse permission for planes carrying returned asylum seekers to land at Kurdish airports and suspend any agreements they have with European Governments to accept forcibly returned asylum seekers. Dashty also asked that the KRG ask the UN to put pressure on European Countries to stop forcible deportation.

stop accepting bookings for the forcible deportation of Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers

By Ana Miller

Dear Sir/Madam

I call on you to stop accepting bookings from the UK Home Office for the purpose of deporting Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers and to cancel all pending bookings from the Home Office immediately.

As long as Royal Jordanian continue to deport asylum seekers against their will, placing their lives in serious danger, I will not use Royal Jordanian Airlines and I will advise people I know not to use your airline.

Supporting the forced removal of vulnerable people brings shame onto your company, please withdraw your support from this unacceptable practice.

Asylum seekers say expulsion flight ended in beating in Iraq

By Hannah Godfrey
The Guardian,
Saturday March 29 2008
Article history
About this article

This article appeared in the Guardian on Saturday March 29 2008 on p8 of the UK news section. It was last updated at 01:03 on March 29 2008.

The biggest operation yet to return Iraqi asylum seekers from Britain to northern Iraq ended in violence when some of those on the plane were beaten by guards on their arrival, it was claimed yesterday

Iraqis on Thursday night's flight said security officers had boarded the plane at Irbil airport in northern Iraq and beat people who refused to get out of the aircraft.

"They were armed with guns, and they beat people from Mosul and Baghdad who refused to leave the plane," said one man on the flight, speaking by phone from Iraq, who gave his name as Rizgar.

"They even hit them in the back of the head with their guns, many people were bleeding. The British security guards were also hitting people."

According to Dashty Jamal of the Federation of Iraqi Refugees, it was armed guards from the Kurdish KDP party who had boarded the plane after it landed and beat the passengers.

In all, 50 Iraqis whose claims for asylum were rejected had been taken to Stansted airport, in Essex, and put on the charter plane to Irbil. In London, the Home Office confirmed that the operation was successfully completed.

Rizgar said that the group was later transferred to minibuses but their belongings were left unguarded in the street for 20 minutes, and some say their property was stolen during this time.

A number of those on Thursday's flight were apparently Kurds from Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad, despite British government assertions that enforced returns involve Iraqis from the Kurdistan regional government area further north in Iraq. Another man on the flight, Sherwen, aged 19, said that he came from Mosul, and had to sleep rough in Irbil after his arrival

A Christian whose father had worked for Saddam Hussein, he said a Kurdish guard told him on arrival that he would be killed because "you're a Christian, not a Muslim".

"I don't have anywhere to go, and I am not safe. The British government said they would give us \$100 when we arrived, but we haven't been given anything. I can't even buy myself something to eat. For three days I've had no sleep and nothing to eat."

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/mar/29/immigration.immigrationpolicy

Urgent Press Release 27-3-2008

Early Morning round up of Iraqi Asylum seekers - 55 Iraqi Asylum Seekers taken from Colnbrook and Campsfield Detention Centres by special Armed Guards



Early this morning the Home Office sent in special armed Guards to Campsfield and Colnbrook detention centres. The armed guards entered the detention centres and took by force approximately 55 Iraqi Asylum Seekers. The guards had camera men with them. They rounded the asylum seekers up and escorted them onto a white coach. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees does not know where the Iraqi asylum seekers now are. We do not know if they are going to be put on a military aircraft via Brize Norton, or flown out by Royal Jordanian airlines. Iraq remains an unsafe country. Some of those about to be deported are from Kirkuk and Mosul; people from this area have generally not been removed by the Home Office in the past. And only last Sunday, 23 March 55 people were killed and many more injured by a suicide bomb in Mosul.

The UK Government refuses to acknowledge that Iraq is still an unsafe country following the invasion of Iraq five years ago and despite the continuing occupation and fighting. Recent press reports from Basra with UK troops fighting Iraqi militia illustrates that Iraq is not safe. The UK Government is offering asylum to some of the people who worked as interpreters and doing other work for the British army and the Foreign Office in Iraq, recognising justifiably that these people's lives will not be safe in Iraq. Yet they continue to threaten to forcibly deport Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK under the pretence that Iraq is now safe. The policy of forcibly deporting Iraqi asylum seekers to a country which is still at war is against the Geneva Convention and the European Human Rights Charter. Forcible deportation to Iraq must be stopped!

Bshdar Ali, IFIR representative in Erbil, had a meeting this morning with Dr. Yousif M Aziz of Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Human Right who promised to ask Mr Nechirvan Barzani President of the KRG to stop this action.

If the KRG does not answer, IFIR will do a protest demonstration in front of Erbil airport with the family of the deportees or they well invite all the Kurdish media to come to the airport to receive the deportees.

Please fax protests regarding this large scale deportation exercise urgently to Jacqui Smith MP The Secretary of State for the Home Office on 0208 760 3132 making the following demands:

Stop deportations to Iraq

Grant protection to all Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers and recognise them as victims of war.

Allow them the right to work or to receive a decent level of benefit

Immediately release the remaining Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers held in detention

Regards

Dashty Jamal

Secretary if International Federation of Iraqi Refugee-IFIRFor more information or to join the contact Dashty Jamal campaign Secretary, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees 07856032991 l, d.jamal@ntlworld.com or Sarah Parker from csdiraq.on 0208-809-0633 sarahp107@hotmail.com or Karen Johnson on 07804891082 karen8johnson@btinternet.com See also our website www.csdiraq.com . Write a protest letter to the Home Office, find out what your MP thinks, write and ask for his/her views, invite them to support the campaign.

urgent news

Sulaimanya 28.03.2008

Forcibly removed by UK Home Office security guards and kicked off the plane by KRG national Guards

Following yesterday's forcible deportation of 60 Iraqi Kurds, IFIR has received several reports from some of those forcibly returned. The Iraqi asylum seekers were escorted by Home Office guards on to a German aircraft from a UK airport; there was one guard per asylum seeker.

The Iraqi asylum seekers were from different places: some from Mosul, others from Kirkuk. Sherwan reported that they arrived at Arbil airport at 3am in the morning. The asylum seekers were confused, tired and did not know where they had landed. When they refused to leave the plane the Home Office guards called the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) guards. Approximately twenty five KRG guards with guns boarded the plane. The KRG Guards pushed and threatened the asylum seekers off the plane on to two waiting coaches. At the airport the asylum seekers noticed three jeeps observing them which they thought they contained UNHCR personnel, but they were not allowed to talk to the people in the jeeps. They were transported from the airport to Ain Kawa Bridge. (Ain Kawa is a small place near Erbil.) They were left under the Ain Kawa Bridge, many of them injured and all having lost their lugguage (including their mobile phones). Sherwan

Continued on page6>>>>

From page 5>>>

ended his report by saying that the KRG Guards knew nothing about human rights: "If I had seen it in a film I would not have believed it".

Rizgar Bahem from Mosul protested at being dropped at Ainkawa Bridge. He tried to reason with the Guards saying "I am not from Kurdistan, why are you leaving me here?". The leader of the Guards responded by hitting him with the muzzle of his gun and pushed him off the coach.

Bashdar Ali, Kurdistan representative of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Iraq, said there will be a press conference and they will organise a demonstration to condemn the terrible treatment that the forcibly returned asylum seekers were subjected to by the KRG guards.

Regards

Dashty Jamal

Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugee-IFIR

Federation in Canada has Interview with Radio Canada International



On the 1 April 08 Jalal Saeed (President Iraqi Federation of Refugee Canada) was interviewed by the Canada International radio station regarding the current refugee crises in Iraq . At the interview Jalal discussed the situation that Iraqi refugees have been placed in. Jalal also talked about the recent deportation of 60 Iraqi-Kurdish asylum seekers from the U.K, and the IFIR campaign against deportation At the end of the interview Jalal was in the UK. asked about IFIR's reaction to the Canadian Government's decision to double the number of Iraqi Refugees offered a home in Canada in 2008 (2000 per year). Jalal replied 'we are pleased that the Canadian government has agreed to help more Iraqi refugees make a home in Canada. However if you think that there are more than five million Iraqi refugees this help is clearly not enough, especially when there are many Iraqi communities within Canada which are able to sponsor Iraqi refugees`.

"All state or non-state racist and xenophobic propaganda against refugees and asylum seekers must be prohibited."

Erfan Karim Representative of IFIR German letter



Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees Germany. On 27 March 08 the Home Office sent in special armed Guards to Campsfield and Colnbrook detention centres. The armed guards entered the detention centres and took by force approximately 60 Iraqi Asylum Seekers. The guards had camera men with them.

The 60 asylum seekers were then deported to Arbil airport in Kurdistan. The asylum seekers were from different parts of Iraq. When the plane landed at Arbil the asylum seekers were frightened and confused and refused to leave the plane consequently the Home Office guards called the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) guards. approximately twenty five KRG guards with guns boarded the plane.

Some of the asylum seekers deported are from Kirkuk and Mosul people from this area have generally not been removed by the Home Office in the past.

German IFIR calls on you to:

Stop deporting kurdish asylum seekers -

Stop the inhuman policy of making Iraqi asylum seekers destitute. –

Release all Iraqis currently held in detention centres immediately.

Yours Sincerely,

Erfan Krim

Representative of IFIR Germany

"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 statue"

Doug **Deporting Children letter** Stop



Dear Home Secretary,

I understand that you intend to forcibly remove a number of refused asylum seekers from Iraq, currently detained in Campsfield, Colnbrook and Oakington this evening. This action is presumably based on the oft repeated fiction that Iraq is safe.

It would appear that you have stopped believing your own propaganda. (Fair enough nobody else does.) May I draw your attention to a report in Tuesday's Guardian, "The government is preparing to airlift up to 2,000 Iraqis out of their country to begin a new life in the UK, the first time that Iraqis will arrive here with their status as refugees assured. Those hand-picked to come to Britain include translators and other staff who have supported British forces in

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/mar/25/immigratio npolicy.immigration

4,000 US and 175 British service personnel have died in Iraq. Iraqi fatalities are many times these figures. An editorial in 'The Lancet' estimates that civilian deaths are in excess of 654,965.

For the second year running, Iraqis in 2007 topped the list of asylum seekers in the world's industrialised countries. The number of Iraqis applying for asylum almost doubled in one year, from 22,900 in 2006, to 45,200 in 2007. UNHCR: Report on 2007 Asylum Levels and Trends in **Industrialised Countries**

I am also concerned about the secret nature of these 'Ethnic Charter Flights', there are now several of these flights every week, to Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and there have been others to DR Congo and Vietnam.

I am further alarmed to hear that most of the people facing removal on Thursday, have received no other information than that they will be removed on "Thursday 27th March, flight PVT001 at 19.00hrs". Others have not even been given the date and time; their removal directions only say "You are to be removed to the KRG no sooner than 72 hours from the date of this notice and no later than 2 weeks from the date of this notice."

Iraq is not safe for anyone. Please reconsider your decision to remove those currently facing removal on Thursday. And in the light of your decision to admit and grant refugee

Holton National Coordinator status to those Iraqi's you intend to bring from Iraq, to release those in detention and reconsider their cases.

Picket of Norwegian Parliament

Kurdish Refugee organisations in Norway held a picket outside the Norwegian Parliament on the 4 April 2008. Protesting against the recent decision of the Norwegian Government regarding a group of Iraqi asylum seekers failing the MUFI.

Kamil Ahmed Secretary of Kurdish Refugee organisations in Norway .He addressed the picket regarding the importance of solidarity between all asylum seekers and Kurdish groups. Yon Martinson from an Afghanistan refugee organisation also spoke pledging his organisations full support for the Iraqi asylum seekers.



When the picket finished Kamil Ahmed and Dulchat went inside the Parliament building to hand in a letter outlining the demands of the lobby.

"No asylum seeker can be prosecuted or imprisoned for being an asylum seeker and or entering without proper or legal documentation. If an asylum seeker commits a criminal offence in the country where s/he has applied for asylum, s/he must be tried in accordance with the laws of that country in that country."

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 from
12 – 1Greenwich Mean Time



Satellite, Hotbird 8
Orbital Position: 13 degrees
East, Transponder: 14 Downlink
Frequency: 11 470, Downlink
Polarity: Vertical
FEC: 5/6, Symbol Rate: 27,500

Post addres:

PO.BOX1575

ILFORD

IG1 3BZ

LONDON UK

"Lack of identification or evidentiary documentation and or even use of fraudulent and illegal documentation by asylum seekers should not be classed as a crime and must not have an adverse effect on the granting of refugee status. Furthermore, having a passport and legally exiting country of origin cannot prevent someone from being granted refugee status"

Editor: Dashty Jamal: 8-4-2008

Deputy Editor: Karen Johnson

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"The Federation believes that home is the country where one lives and works. We consider that human rights are universal and they can not be limited by factors of geographic territory, gender, culture, religion, race, age or place of birth. Any belief or movement that restricts human rights for reasons of racism, fascism or cultural relative theory, is a reactionary belief and movement that stands against universal human right".