

IFIR 1 May statement which was distributed at May day demonstrations across the world

Refugees are part of the working class - Long live May Day International workers Solidarity

1 May is a day of international working class solidarity and unity. Workers around the world set aside their false religious and nationalist identities and come forward as a united class with a common future, against oppressive capitalist system and the barbarism it imposes on humanity. It is the day we stand up to oppression; discrimination; war; destruction; hunger and unemployment. It is the day in which we start to gather our forces and capabilities to overthrow the current system of inequality and oppression and build a free, equal and prosperous world.

However, we still live in an era in which war, terrorism, barbarity, austerity, unemployment, fleeing and displacement that deny the rights and life opportunities for the working class. Today's world is a monster shouting that deprivation is inevitable and will destroy the forthcoming generations; that a dignified life is far from being gained. European countries ignore their responsibility for the refugee crisis, which in Iraq and Syria stems from the military involvement of European countries alongside the US, and their support of inhuman and repressive governments in the Middle East.

EU countries continue to arrest and detain Kurdish and Iraqi people. IFIR's campaign in Iraq has forced the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional governments to stop accepting forcible deportation flights. However, under pressure from European governments they appear to be reneging on promises they have made. This is all taking place at a time when Iraq is being plagued by war and violence, which is forcing so many to make the dangerous journey



across the sea to Europe. The daily tragedy of the refugees on the borders of Europe is a consequence of the policy of closing borders to people whose livelihoods and place of residence have been turned into a battlefield of civil war, unrest and insecurity. The disaster facing refugees places a tremendous responsibility upon European governments. Whilst the UK and Europe talk about human rights they have provided no realistic solution to prevent the wave of refugees seeking safety in Europe. Regarding a report International Organisation of Migrants 498 people have died in the Mediterranean from January to April 2018.

Join with IFIR to Demand:

- An end to the policy of imperialist wars of division in the Middle East ; condemnation of the USA, NATO, Russian and Chinese military interference in the area, and end to their support for groups affiliated to them, because it is their war which created instability and poverty leading to a mass refugee exodus.
- Stop forcibly deporting people to Iraq.
- Opening of the borders for the refugees who are victims of war, in order to save them from death; equal allocation of refugees across Member States in line with Member States' responsibilities, and protection of refugees from racism and from assault by fascists.
- Activation of the UN in the war-torn countries in order to help IDPs and refugees and to oblige the EU to recognise the refugees' rights and provide them with assistance. Swift steps by the EU to enable civil society groups and refugee organizations to help the refugees with food, health care, clothes and shelter without discrimination by ethnic group or religion.

Please send solidarity messages to IFIR@hotmail.co.uk

Donations to support the work of IFIR:

Account name: International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)

Account number: 21449591, Bank name: HSBC Sort code: 40-04-07

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees Activity

The last year has seen significant developments in Iraq and Kurdistan. While the threat of ISIS has reduced, the decision by the Kurdish government to hold a referendum for independence has had disastrous consequences, with the Iraqi government responding harshly. Meanwhile the situation of refugees who have flown ISIS and other repression remains poor, with many still held in camps with no chance of moving on. The ruling Iraqi and Kurdish governments and political parties continue with their corruption and neglect of the country. While leading politicians, bureaucrats and military officers enrich themselves, repression continues against all who raise protest. As a result there is no point trying to appeal to the 'better nature' of the government or political class. It is however important to keep public and political pressure

>>>continued on page 2



>>>From page 1

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees Activity

on them – and to prioritise campaigning for equality. The referendum especially dominated political debate and reduced the space for other discussion. However we were able to use the referendum to open a debate about the situation in Kurdistan and Iraq and the treatment of refugees within that.

IFIR has organised several events over the last year including International Women's day, Refugee Week and a New Year' Eve party in London. We were also invited to open the youth section of the Kirkuk library – which we had campaigned for - and make a speech about the importance of inclusion and equality. The library is to be used by all the young people of Kirkuk regardless of their background and beliefs, to give the young people in Kirkuk a space to socialise and educate themselves through reading. The IFIR also joined the London Million Women Rise March and rally.

IFIR organized a further 6 seminars in London throughout 2017 addressing items of interest to the Iraqi and Kurdish community including current and political events in Iraq. One of them was about journalist Kawa Garmiani who was murdered. Also Brwa Barzinji a leading Iraqi Kurdish journalist who was forced to flee Iraq and is now living in London spoke at two of the seminars regarding freedom of the press in Kurdistan.

The IFIR has helped and supported many newly arrived Iraqi and Kurdish Refugees some of whom are held in different detention centres across the UK, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey. The Federation has sought to ensure that all detainees who have contacted the Federation do have access to legal support wherever possible. IFIR also successfully



sponsored many Iraqi refugees stranded in Turkey gain asylum in Canada.

IFIR at the request of the families of Iraqi Refugees in both Iraq, the UK and across Europe found 4 lost people and arranged for the bodies of 30 Iraqi refugees lost at sea to be returned home to Iraq.

The Federation organised and held a demonstration on the 14 April 2017 outside the UK Home Office in London hosted by the families of those detained. The Federation has also successfully campaigned for the release of individuals by assisting them to draft petitions and contact their MP's through our case work. The Federation has also written letters to support Iraqi refugees write to remain in countries across Europe such as Switzerland, UK, France, Germany, Sweden and to the UNHCR in Turkey. In these letters we include reports of what is happening in the part of Iraq the Refugees are from supported by web links to reports from organisations such as UNHCR and Amnesty.

The Federation keeps in contact with Iraqi's held in detention centres by maintaining detainee networks in many detention centres. Through these networks the Federation has provided emotional support, helping detainees to develop coping mechanisms to deal with the uncertainties and lack of information about what is happening to them. Our activists have also organised campaigns to put pressure on the

Iraqi Government to stop accepting forcibly returned Iraqi nationals. IFIR also launched a petition that included signatures of 100 plus Iraqi MP's. On the 4 April 2018 in response to the IFIR petition the Iraqi Parliament released a statement instructing all their embassies around the world not to provide travel documents to any of their citizens to enable them to be forcibly returned to Iraq.

Throughout the year we have regularly conducted interviews on all the major news channels articulating ideas against racism and xenophobia towards refugees. These have instigated wider debate and were an important counterpoint to the dominant narratives that sought to persecute Syrian and Yazidi refugees. IFIR activists in Iraq have been invited to speak at many media conferences regarding IFIR's campaigns. IFIR has also received wider invitations for example featuring in a documentary discussing migration and IFIR's role supporting refugees featuring the work of Richard Mosse an Irish photographer and filmmaker, who immerses himself in his subject, integrating documentary journalism and art practice to explore issues of conflict, displacement and perception. He is one of only two photographers ever to have won both the Deutsche Borse Prize and The Prix Pictet, two of photography's most prestigious international awards. Richard is working on his latest award winning project, Heat Maps, a detailed documentation of Europe's refugee camps. (Source: Bloomberg). Dashty Jamal secretary of IFIR was interviewed about the work of Richard Mosse and is included in the film. You can watch the film from the following link;

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2018-03-19/richard-mosse-on-brilliant-ideas-video>

A selection of IFIR press releases throughout the year covering IFIR campaigns

11 August
IFIR press release:

Desecration of Kurdish Journalist Sardasht Osman's Grave

On the 9 August Sardasht Osman's parents after attending a family friends funeral, visited their son's Sardasht Osman's grave. The sight that met them would shock any parent. Sardasht's grave and headstone stone had been smashed to pieces. This was particularly hurtful to Sardasht's parents as it echoed the violent murder of their 23 year old son in May 2010.

To lose a child at such a young age is awful, but Sardasht wasn't an ordinary person he was courageous and bravely spoke against the corruption of the ruling Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP). Sardasht was a journalist and wrote many articles criticizing the leading families ruling Iraqi Kurdistan. He wrote one particular article saying he wanted to marry Barzani (President of the Kurdistan Region in Iraq) daughter. Sardasht wrote this article to show the difference between the lives of his family and friends to the riches and privileges enjoyed by the Barzani family. Following the publication of this article Sardasht and his family started to receive death threats. This sadly led directly to Sardasht being abducted on the 3rd of May 2010. According to eyewitnesses and the police, an unidentified white minibus with a concealed number plate stopped in front of the college just as Osman exited. The men then pushed him into the van and drove off. His handcuffed body was found two days later outside Mosul with two bullets in his head. Sardasht Osman's brother said "The desecration of Sardasht's grave has deeply hurt my family. We will not be at peace until Sardasht's murderers are brought to justice".

Following Sardasht's violent death in 2010 there have been many protests calling for the arrest of the perpetrators of Sardasht's murder. Unfortunately no-



body has been arrested. Another protest was held at Sardasht's grave Yesterday (10 August 2017) protesting at the violent desecration of Sardasht's grave and calling for an independent investigation into Sardasht's murder.

Sardasht's family and all freedom loving people demand:

- That the assassination of Sardasht Osman is properly investigated;
- Call for the formation of an independent committee with the involvement of international bodies;
- Investigate the assassination of Sardasht Osman and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Dashty Jamal IFIR Secretary visited Sardasht's grave on the 23 August at the invitation of Sardasht's parents. Aso Goran and Dashty organised a collection from progressive people and bought several fir trees to be planted round Sardasht's grave to represent life and hope in response to the violence that had been carried out on Sardasht's grave.

On the 4 May a number of activists organised a memorial event commemorating Sardasht's life at Trafalgar Square, London.



Iraq has issued an obligation to avoid compulsory deportations

IFIR Press Release:

This time last year 104 Iraqi MP's signed a resolution against accepting forcibly Deported Iraqi Refugees from Europe following a campaign led by IFIR. At that time it was not enough to stop forcibly deported refugees being returned to Iraq. IFIR continued campaigning and today the Iraqi ministry of foreign affairs has introduced guidance avoiding the compulsory deportation of Iraqi refugees in European countries.

The Iraqi Government asks its embassies abroad not to issue any passports for those who are not attending their offices in person. Amin Bakir, one of Goran's Iraqi MPs told "Awene" that the Iraqi ministry of foreign affairs has issued an obligation, in which all Iraqi embassies are instructed not to reissue any passports for anyone without the person's attendance at their Offices. "Awene" was told by the above mentioned MP, that after gathering votes to issue a decree in Parliament to stop the compulsory deportations of the Iraqi refugees. They have informed the ministry of foreign affairs, that some European countries in addition to the organizations helping refugees and security forces in those countries are committing an illegal inhuman act of compulsory deportation of Iraqi refugees.

The organizations inform the Iraqi embassies that the refugees want to go back to Iraq and need passports while they are arrested, and detained in prisons and of which they have no idea. Therefore and based on our demand has the foreign ministry obliged the embassies to stop issuing passports without having the person attending their office.

Furthermore, in the obligation, a copy of which the Goran MP has published, is mentioned that the embassies must be sure that the person wants to go back to Iraq and only then may they reissue the passport



IFIR Solidarity with demands of Demonstration in Kurdistan

The political situation in Iraqi Kurdistan is deteriorating day by day. Salaries and wages have not been paid for months. Electricity, clean water, health care, social services and other public services are far from reach for the masses. To oppose this and to better their life conditions, people have demonstrated in many cities and towns over the last month. The protesters are protesting against lack of basic services such as electricity, widespread corruption, and calling for the full payment of state salaries. Instead of meeting their demands, the authorities have opened fire on the demonstrators and used tear gas to part and frighten people.

The PUK and KDP are the cause of people's hunger, poverty and misery. They act as a despotic authority, and oppress and kill demonstrators on the streets.

IFIR ask you to write an Urgent action calling on the PUK & KDP to:

- Free all those arrested and detained immediately.
- Prosecute those who shot at the demonstrators
- Compensate any one who has been affected by the oppressive forces.
- Remove all the militia from Kurdish cities and towns
- Stop oppressing people and recognise freedom of rallying and demonstration



IFIR activists rescued 280 Iraqi Kurdish refugees abandoned by Turkey in the middle of Syrian war zone

The last year has seen significant developments in Iraq and Kurdistan. While the threat of ISIS has reduced, the decision by the Kurdish government to hold a referendum for independence has had disastrous consequences, with the Iraqi government responding harshly. Meanwhile the situation of refugees who have flown ISIS and other repression remains poor, with many still held in camps with no chance of moving on. The ruling Iraqi and Kurdish governments and political parties continue with their corruption and neglect of the country. While leading politicians, bureaucrats and military officers enrich themselves, repression continues against all who raise protest. As a result there is no point trying to appeal to the 'better nature' of the government or political class. It is however important to keep public and political pressure on them – and to prioritise campaigning for equality.

The referendum especially dominated political debate and reduced the space for other discussion. However we were able to use the referendum to open a debate about the situation in Kurdistan and Iraq and the treatment of refugees within that.

In addition, there was pressure on IFIR from the number of migrants suffering terrible problems when they try to leave Iraq and travel to Europe. As a direct result we have had to deal with many, many requests from people and their families for help, for example we have been asked to identify and repatriate 23 bodies of people who have died on their way to Europe. Our volunteers also rescued 280 Iraqi Kurds who were arrested in Turkey and were abandoned in Syria in the middle of a war zone by the Turkish authorities.

Here is the moment when people could bring the Iraq and retrieved with their families.

<https://www.facebook.com/naliatv/videos/1652608204785241/>



IFIR returned 23 bodies to Iraq

24/09/2017

A fishing boat carrying migrants sank off Turkey's Black Sea Coast in 24th of September 2017. Fourty migrants rescued, but 23 Iraqi Refugees died. The families of the Iraqi Migrants contacted with IFIR to identify the people and to repatriate the bodies. Upon that IFIR contacted with Turkish authorities and wrote a letter and could repatriate 23 bodies of people to the families. IFIR thanks to people and organisations that have supported us in this task.



36 Iraqi-Kurdish refugees deported by Turkey

27/03/2018

On 27 March 2018 Turkey detained 36 Iraqi nationals in Edirne. Although they have a legal visa, Turkey detained them with no reasonable grounds. These 36 nationals including 9 women, 14 children and a 10 month old baby. IFIR was in touch with them regularly during their detention. The Iraqi nationals claimed that they were staying in very poor conditions. In particular for the baby they couldn't find even milk. IFIR contacted many Human Rights organisations.

Gulseren Yoleri a lawyer from Human Rights Association (IHD) volunteered to become a legal representative for these people. However, Turkey did allow Gulseren to speak to the Iraqi's and deported them at 4 am of the 9th April 2018. IFIR contacted them on their return to Iraq. They were thankful to IFIR for their efforts.

Syria and Iraq are victims of US, Russia & UK Governments war and Militarism



IFIR calls on the UK authorities to stop unlawful deportations and detentions of Iraqi Refugees

IFIR Press Release – 10/04/2018

The tragedy of refugees on the borders of Europe and in the Mediterranean Sea is a direct consequence of closing borders to people whose livelihoods and homes have been shattered by civil war, unrest and insecurity. The disaster facing refugees places a tremendous responsibility upon European governments. While the UK and other European governments talk about human rights, they have provided no realistic solution to the causes of the current wave of displacement and forced mass immigration. On the contrary, the UK government is detaining Iraqi refugees for indefinite periods under threat of forced deportation. The Home Office has already used force to deport many Iraqi refugees on Royal Jordanian Airlines, Turkish Airlines and Qatar Airways flights.

The UK Government is clearly undertaking these deportations with the Iraqi Government's agreement and using Iraqi Government officials to support, legitimise and authorise the process. Some of the Iraqi asylum seekers detained in Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre after a recent raid have informed IFIR that they were interviewed by Iraqi officials. Following these interviews the Home Office cleared those asylum seekers for deportation. It is unacceptable that the UK Government has such an agreement with the Iraqi Government.

The UK Government's policy on detention and deportation is further harming many Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers who have built a secure family life in the UK. Indefinite detention periods particularly affect these refugees' mental health as most have in the past been victims of torture or experienced severe mental trauma.

According to the UNHCR's Detention Guidelines victims of torture should not be detained and a maximum period of detention should be set in national legislation. Yet there is no such legislation in the UK.

In addition, Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) strictly prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. IFIR believes that the UK's detention of victims of torture breaches Article 3. IFIR also believes that indefinite detention, inhuman conditions in detention centres and forcible deportation cause fear, anxiety and many other mental disorders among refugees and so breaches Article 3. For example, Aras Ismail, an Iraqi asylum seeker, was injured, handcuffed, hooded and put in an aircraft toilet for the duration of a deportation flight. (1)

It is important to note that Iraq is still a war zone country and Iraqi refugees have had to escape where their lives are under threat. The majority of refugees from Iraq are the direct victims of the political and military involvement of the US and European countries and their support for nominally democratic but repressive regimes and political forces in the Middle East.

Iraq is politically and economically insecure and unsafe for Iraqi citizens. Following the referen-

dum on independence for South Kurdistan, held on 25 September 2017, Iraq became even more complicated politically and socially. The hypocritical attitude of the UN, US and other western governments towards the rights of Kurdish people has motivated the Iraqi Government, backed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard under the command and supervision of Qasim Sulaimani, to attack disputed areas. These attacks, including that on the major city of Kirkuk, caused hundreds of thousands of Kurdish people to flee their homes. States now run by these forces are taking no responsibility for the livelihoods of Iraqi citizens. Iraqi society is in a spiral of conflict between different religious, nationalist and Islamic groups. The deportation of Iraqi refugees from the UK puts their lives at risk and constitutes a breach of International Human Rights under the Refugee Convention 1951 of article 33 (1).

One of the many examples of refugees who have preferred suicide to deportation is Ahmed, an Iraqi Kurdish refugee. Having lived in the UK for 15 years he was detained without reasonable grounds in the Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre. As a result of inhuman conditions at the Centre and inhuman treatment by officers Ahmed tried to hang himself. (2) Research shows that in 2015 there were 393 recorded suicide attempts by immigration detainees. (3)

There are also many examples of refugees who have been separated from their friends and families. The UK government is therefore violating Article 8 of the ECHR by not respecting the family life of refugees. Samir Mohammad is one example. He was detained without sufficient grounds and deported to Iraq after living in the UK for 17 years and settling in Sheffield with his British wife Anne Marie and their children Zahara and Soran. (4)

Another fact that should be considered is that many deportees to Iraq and Kurdistan are unemployed. They have not been offered the opportunity to resume their previous jobs. Consequently they have become a burden on their families. These Iraqi citizens need help to reintegrate into society and restart their normal lives. The duty to meet this need rests with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government.

The UK Government's policy is putting profit before human rights and is complicit in human rights abuses. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) is calling on the international community to stand against the UK's detention and deportation policy because it harms the lives of Iraqi and Kurdish refugees. IFIR is an organisation dedicated to defending human rights. We see ourselves as part of a progressive and international movement. We fight for the rights of Iraqi refugees across the world and work to gain solidarity from human rights organisations worldwide. As part of that responsibility we are sending you this letter to ask you to stand with us. We ask you to condemn forced deportation by the UK Government when Iraq is in a state of war and the Iraqi people are still paying the price for the actions of the UK and US gov-

ernments. We call on you to sign and share our petition, which can be accessed by the following link:

https://www.change.org/p/amber-rudd-mp-stop-the-uk-government-forcibly-deporting-people-to-iraq?utm_medium=email&utm_source=petsition_signer_receipt&utm_campaign=triggered&share_context=signature_receipt&ecruiter=56983393&j=296089&sfmc_sub=323191871&l=32_HTML&u=53444684&mid=7233052&jb=293925

Please also support our campaign by writing to the UK's Home Secretary asking her to:

- Immediately halt these deportations
- End the UK's deportation agreement with the Iraqi Government
- Immediately release all Iraqi refugees held in detention in the UK
- Give all Iraqis in the UK refugee status.

Contact details:

Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Email:

privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

(1) Areeb Ullah, 'Iraqi man 'bound, hooded and locked in plane toilet' during forced UK removal' *Middle East Eye* 24 April 2017 <http://www.middleeasteye.net/Iraqi-asylum-seeker-handcuffed-and-hooded-in-forced-removal-from-UK>; Sophia Akram, 'Asylum seeker is gagged and locked in a toilet while sent back to a war zone' *The Canary* 13 April 2017 <https://www.thecanary.co/global/2017/04/13/asylum-seeker-gagged-tied-locked-toilet-sent-back-war-zone/>

(2) Liam O'Harwe, 'Death in Detention; Suicide attempts soar in the UK' *Al Jazeera* 12 February 2017 <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/02/death-detention-suicide-attempts-soar-uk-170205114101287.html>

(3) No-deportations, 'IRCS 'Self-Harm' (Attempted Suicide) and those on 'Self-Harm Watch' (at risk of Suicide) 2015' <http://www.no-deportations.org.uk/Media-2014/Self-Harm2015.html>

(4) Megan Griffiths, 'Refugee families facing deportation to Iraq win battle to stay in Wales' *Wales Online* 5 June 2017 <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/refugee-family-facing-deportation-swanssea-13142446>



**We are all
Citizens of the
world.**

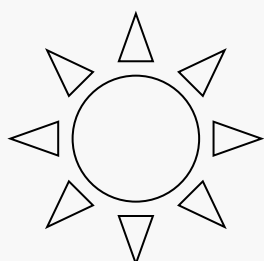
Aras Ismail suffered injury in his forced removal from UK

03/05/2017

Many of Iraqi refugees in Britain and the United States are being reportedly prepared to be forcibly removed and deported back to Iraq, despite the [poor security situation in the country](#). Aras Ismail is one of them, who had attempted to seek asylum in Britain for the last 10 years before being forcibly removed. During his deportation he was [bound, hooded and locked](#) inside an airplane toilet for five hours last month, during his deportation from the UK to Iraq. The 32-year-old is now in hiding in Iraq; he fears for his life if sent back to Kirkuk, which is currently under the control of the Kurdistan Regional Government but has suffered attacks from Islamic State in recent months.

More than 100 Iraqi MPs have signed a resolution urging the government to block the deportation and forced removal of Iraqi nationals who have sought refuge in other countries. The resolution, signed by 104 MPs, calls on the Iraqi government to "take all necessary measures to prevent the forced deportation of Iraqis from the countries they seek refuge in."

Dashty Jamal, who is a spokesperson for the [IFIR](#), told Middle East Eye that "the resolution will be a positive step in helping Iraqi refugees who fear for their safety if taken back to Iraq. "We successfully campaigned for the Iraqi parliament to tell the government to block the deportation of refugees back to the country in 2003, and we will do it again." But the British government which helped create the sectarian and ethnic violence in Iraq today must play its role in helping Iraqis by granting them asylum and not send them back." (Source Middleeasteye, The Canary)



IFIR Solidarity messages to victims of terrorism

IFIR condemns attack on Sinai Mosque in Egypt

24 Nov 2017

IFIR offers its condolences to all those affected by the attack on a mosque attended by Sufi Muslims in Sinai. Two hundred and thirty five people were murdered and more injured in this attack on a Mosque at Friday prayers. This time was deliberately chosen when the Mosque was busy to cause more harm and confusion. The terrorists were also shooting at ambulances sent to help the victims of this awful attack.

We stand in solidarity with all the victims of this terror attack. The aim of this terror attack is to send fear throughout not only Egypt but the whole world. We must not let extremists dictate to us how or who we worship, whether that be Christian

or Muslim or whether we choose not to follow any faith.

We stand with progressive forces that stand against terror committed by all terror groups. This current wave of terrorism is an international condition in the development of political Islam. Civilised humanity must have the ability to confront terrorism. It is time for all freedom loving and progressive movements to stand against this evil.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR joins progressive voices and all freedom loving people in the world against terrorism and the ending of all terrorist acts across the world.

IFIR condemns terrorist attacks in Barcelona & expresses sorrow to victims and their families

17 August 2017

The International Federation of Iraq Refugees offers its sincere condolences to everyone affected by the catastrophic events in Barcelona. At the time of writing this press release 14 people were killed and more than 80 were injured on the evening of Thursday 17th of August 2017.

We stand in solidarity with the victims and their families following this awful terror attack in Barcelona. This attack is another attempt by IS to divide our society and cause hatred within our society. We must not allow terrorists to divide us; we must all unite against these terrorists. We stand shoulder to shoulder with freedom loving people.

The only force, which can defeat ISIS and have an interest in cleansing ISIS, is the civilised humanity and freedom-loving front. This force is represented by working class, toiling masses and freedom-loving people across the world.

But the worst and most dangerous thing is that ISIS trying to drown the civilised world in blood, terror and murder as a means to divide the power and wealth of society. ISIS is a black spectre overwhelming human society.

We join progressive voices of freedom loving people to stand against the forces of state and non-state terrorism across the world.

Hands off People in the Middle East

Refugees Welcome Here!





Dashty Jamal speech at Defend Afrin Demonstration, Downing Street

16/03/2018

Dashty Jamal, Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees speech at Afrin Demonstration, which took place at Downing Street 16 March 2018.

His speech is as follows;

Please can we hold a minute's silence for those who died in Halabja. Today marks 30 years since the genocide in Halabja where around 5 thousand innocent people were killed by the dictatorship of Saddam. After 30 years, more than a thousand people have still not recovered from their injuries.

104 of those people have died due to poor treatment. Another 36 people are in need of immediate treatment as they have life threatening injuries and 114 children remain missing. Today, 30 years since this tragedy, the Kurdish regional government has done nothing for these victims. Many of the people of Kurdistan have no water, electricity or wages to live on. The future of Kurdistan under the nationalist parties looks uncertain. 30 years on since Halabja, there is another massacre that Turkey are repeating in front of the world and the western governments have remained silent. Why is the civilized world silent while the citizens of Afrin are facing massacre? Russia, who has been playing a prominent role in the Syrian civil war, has given Turkey the green light to enter Afrin.

The USA, does not want Turkey to become a Russian ally, is silent and lets the city fall into the hands of the Turkish army. The European nations favour their NATO ally and have nothing to say. Thus with international permission and silence, the citizens of Afrin are left besieged and under fire from Turkish and Islamic Turkish-supported terrorism. Afrin is not ruled by Islamist terrorist groups but by their own autonomous self-governing local council. The imperialist countries of Russia and the USA, with their allies in the region, are fighting for their interests at the expense of the ordinary people of the Middle East. Many have been killed and cities such as; Mosel, Aleppo, Raqqa and



now Afrin are being destroyed.

Humanity and working class and freedom-loving people must not stand by and tolerate the barbarous crimes of the Turkish government and their terrorist allies. If we keep silent in front of these fascists and their ultra-conservative allies, they will repress civilization and take away people's freedom.

We call for:

- Immediate withdrawal of all Turkish military forces from Afrin
- Speak out against what is going on Afrin; stop the war now
- Call on Turkey to stop military actions on Afrin
- Turkey must not only be condemned; but also be interrogated about their crimes in attacking Afrin

Victory to the people of Afrin!"

IFIR sent an open letter to Turkish Airline, King Abdulla (Royal Jordanian Airline) and Qater Airline calling on them to:

•Immediately stop accepting bookings from the UK Border Agency and its contractors to forcibly deport people to Iraq;

•Cancel all bookings already made to forcibly deport Iraqi's;

•Stop Turkish Airlines / Royal Jordanian Airline profiting from the UK's deportation policy that risks the lives of Iraqi refugees.

•Turkish, Royal Jordanian and Qater airline by assisting the UK government to forcibly deport people to Iraq is putting profit before human rights and as such is complicit in human rights abuses.

Editor: Dashty Jamal

www.federationifir.com

Deputy Editor: Karen Johnson

For more information on International Federation of Iraqi Refugees :

Please contact Details: 078560 32991

Secretariat: Aso Goran

Contact Details 00447895636633

ifir@hotmail.co.uk

IFIR branches contact:

Switzerland: Ahmad Ali : Contact Details :0788532004

ahmadali525@hotmail.com

Finland ;Rebwar Arif -Finland 0440464905

fediraq@welho.com

Germany : Baker Hammad :bakir0107@yahoo.de .

Tel:004991725799170 :

Canada JalalSaed:iraqifederation@yahoo.ca-Tel:0015198411816

Turkey : Roj Aziz-Tel:00905313119830.

Kurdistan: Ari Jalal contact Number:009647707524343