

Support Kurdish Asylum Seekers

ECHOS

COALITION TO STOP DEPORTATION TO IRAQ

NEWS LETTER 3

NO DEPORTATIONS TO IRAQ!



DEFEND REFUGEE RIGHTS FOR KURDS AND IRAQIS

STOP THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS POLICY OF
DEPORTATIONS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS TO IRAQI
KURDISTAN !

SOLIDARITY WITH OTHERS RESISTING DEPORTATION
TO DANGEROUS COUNTRIES

PUBLIC MEETING
MONDAY 26 MARCH 2007
7 TO 9PM
HOUSE OF COMMONS
Westminster SW1
Committee Room 10

Speakers: John McDonnell MP; Jean Lambert MEP; Dashty Jamal, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees & CSDIRAQ; Tim Finch, Refugee Council; Arun Kundnani, Institute of Race Relations; Emma Ginn, NCADC; Kurdish Asylum seeker who was detained; Asylum Support Appeals Project; Campaign to Stop Deportations to DR Congo (invited)

Come and hear the above speakers and take part in a discussion on:

- Why Iraq including Kurdistan is not safe
- How rejected asylum seekers are still made destitute
- What can be done to help 1.7 million Iraqis displaced within Iraq and more than 1.7 million fled to neighbouring countries
- Why the Home Office still removes people to dangerous places like Iraqi Kurdistan and Democratic Republic of Congo
- What we can do to stop the Home Office's removal policy

For further information, please contact Sarah Parker on 0208 809 0633 or email sarahp107@hotmail.com or Dashty Jamal on 07856032991 d.jamal@ntlworld.com

The Memorial Day of Halabja



On Friday the 16th March 2007 the Federation of Iraqi Refugees organised a memorial day remembering the tragedy of Halabja, at Nottingham Refugee Forum. The event started with a documentary exhibition of photos, arts works by refugees and local people, posters by Jassem , Diako and two pieces of music by Dare expressing the tragedy. This was followed by a discussion meeting in which Jasim Ghafur opened the discussion by introducing the event and briefly talked about what happened on the bloody Friday of 16th March 1988. The Iraqi regime attacked the town of Halabja using chemical weapons killing more than five thousand civilians on that day and wounding more than 10 thousand. People are still suffering and dying from the affects of the chemicals. The participants talked from their personal experience about the tragedy, explaining the causes and the consequences of the attack and also about the support Saddam's regime received from imperialist powers, whilst it was committing crimes against civilians every day. The non Kurdish guests expressed their sympathy with the people of Halabja and anger against Saddam's regime and its supporters.

Report by Jasim Ghafur

Solidarity with Kurdish and Iraqi Asylum seekers

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees Public Meeting 22 February in Leicester



The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees held a meeting in Leicester On Saturday 22nd attended by seventy people. Kalid Ismail chaired the meeting the speakers were Aram Hama Saed and Noory Bashir who is an activist in the asylum rights campaigns.

Aram Saed started the meeting by talking about the general situation of the asylum seekers and the deportation of Kurdish asylum seekers and Noory Basheir spoke about the role and activities of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees in campaigning against and in some cases stopping the deportation of asylum seekers back to Iraq. The meeting was successful and lasted three hours, the audience asked many questions which were answered by the speakers.

To Human rights Campaigners, Refugees and Refugee Organisations,

Coalition to Stop Deportation to Iraq (CSDI) 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 make send donations to the following Bank Account:

Lloyds TSB Bank, MR BURHAN A FATAH, and
Account Number: 43116868, Sort Code: 77-19-01.

Our Postal Address is:

PO BOX 1575, ILFORD, IG13BZ, LONDON, UK.

Tralee Refugee Support Services
Drop-In-Centre
7, Ashe Street
Tralee, Co. Kerry
13^h March 2007

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you from a support group in South West Ireland Tralee Refugee Support Services and a representative of Integrating Ireland a National umbrella of over 220 organisations. I would like to express great concerns in relation to the asylum process and deportation system of Iraqi asylum seekers. I am sure you are aware that Iraq is a war torn country and every day there is constant blood shed, hardship and death. I am amazed that any countries asylum policy would encourage and condone the deportation of **human beings** in fear of **persecution** or death back to such a country. People from these countries are pleading to the mercy of all our governments to show some humanity and not sentence them to death, persecution/torture or degrading treatment. The war currently in Iraq deems it an **unsafe country** that thousands of alien troops are being drafted into on a regular basis. All people are asking for is to be treated fairly and equally as human beings. The amount of innocent people who are killed on a daily basis is at such a high figure it is frightening. We have been informed that Iraqi deportees were handcuffed on their return home not only is this degrading but it is treating them like criminals.

I would urge you to please consider this situation openly and imagine your family in this dire situation I'm sure all you would hope for it that they are safe protected and treated fairly. This is a power that is in your hands so please exercise your power and save some lives.

Grainne Landers

Co-ordinator

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Asylum Rights are Human Rights

A Letter of Protest to the United Kingdom High Commission in Ottawa

Subject: Deporting of the Kurdish from the United Kingdom

Dear Honorable Ambassador,

The Kurdish communities and associations in England and the local and international media have been reporting that the British Government is continuing its policy of forcefully deporting Kurdish refugees from Great Britain and returning them to Iraqi Kurdistan.

The UK Government has commissioned 3 planes to forcibly deport Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers the most recent on 12 February deported 38 Kurdish refugees. The Kurdish refugees were handcuffed, put on board a military aircraft and flown back to Erbil International Airport in Kurdistan.

British officials speaking to the media have stated that the refugees were returned according to a bilateral agreement between the governments of the Kurdistan Region and Great Britain due to Kurdistan's current stability.

This policy of the British Government contradicts the international human rights and UN charter agreements. Iraq is still amongst the most dangerous countries in the world. There are more than 100 people fleeing Iraq on a daily basis. Moreover, Kurdistan is not an independent state; it is still part of Iraq and what effects Iraq may affect Kurdistan. The future of the Kurdistan Region is not yet clear.

The Kurds of Ottawa and the Organization of the Federation of the Iraqi Refugees – Canada, fully support the anti deportation campaign which is organized by the Federation of the Iraqi Refugees - Britain which calls for the British Government to stop all forcible deportations to any part of Iraq. We condemn the British Government's policy of deporting Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers which breaks the International Declaration of Human Rights 1948. Further to this we will forward information of the British Government's policy of forcibly deporting Iraqi Kurds to all Canadian humanitarian organizations and international and labour bodies.

Finally, we would like you to present the following demands, which are related to the refugees, to The British Government:

1. Immediately halt forcible deporting of the Kurdish refugees to Iraqi Kurdistan.
2. Dismantle the illegal bilateral agreement between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the British Government as it is against human rights.
3. To approve the cases belonging to Iraqi Kurdish refugees and guarantee their rights in seeking asylum.
4. Release all detained refugees and put an end to future arrests.

We look forward to your response to our demands particularly in light of the fact that it was the British Government as advised by Percy Cox in 1923 that mistakenly placed the Kurds into the Iraqi state. With this in mind we hope you will support the demands for an Independent Kurdish State now.

Very best regards,

**The Ottawa Kurdish Community Association
The Canadian Federation of Iraqi Refugees**

Support Letter from PCS

Dear John Reid,

I am writing on behalf of the DFT/DCLG PCS London Branch Executive Committee. We have been informed by the Federation of Iraqi Refugees that the Home Office intends to charter a plane and forcibly deport 50 Iraqi Kurds to Erbil in Northern Iraq on 12 February.

The DFT/DCLG Branch Executive Committee have asked me to write to you to condemn the Home Office's policy of forcibly deporting people back to a country that is on the brink of civil war.

We call on the Home Office to:

Stop the policy of forcibly returning Iraqi Kurds back to Northern Iraq.

Review the cases of all Iraqis seeking asylum.

Recognise that Iraq is not safe, and that people should not be returned there.

Regularise the status of persons seeking asylum from Iraq to whom they have so far refused protection, by giving them leave to remain, and the right either to work or to receive decent levels of benefits, in line with the proposals made by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants in their document "Recognising

Continued on page 4>>>

No to Forcible Deportations of Kurdish Asylum Seekers

Support Letter >>from page3

Rights, Recognising Political Realities"
published on 13 July 2006.

Regards

Rachel Edwards

PCS DFT-DCLG London

Assistant Branch Secretary

Iraq is NOT safe for deportees

Tralee Socialist Workers Party, in solidarity with Kurds and Iraqis living locally condemns the practice of deporting Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK back to Iraq. "This decision has made Iraqi asylum seekers feel there is no democracy in the world, and also created psychological problems among them', a Kurdish man in Kerry has explained to us. 'Imagine what kind of fear is created in these people. If Iraq is safe why are thousands of alien troops operating there, and how are innocent people killed every day?" Certainly, the UNHCR has warned that Iraq cannot cope with the displaced people it already has.

Asylum seekers who have had problems with Kurdish political parties, Islamists and corrupt officialdom are at risk from those forces. The greatest irony is that Kurds and Iraqis are victims of a disastrous UK and US imperial manoeuvre and its aftermath. The UK authorities must recognise the political reality of their own making: Iraq is not safe. Our Kurdish comrade continued, "For the sake of equality and human rights we have to raise our voices to help these people." Tralee SWP is against the deportations. We have circulated this appeal in Ireland through

the internet

Yours, Sean Moraghan, Tralee Socialist Workers Party Tralee Anti-War Group

Amnesty International member, Tralee, County Kerry, Rep of Ireland

Support message from the Kurdish Federation

Kurdish Federation in KIRKLEES wrote a messages support the CSDIRAQ & IFIR meeting in the House of Commons and IFIR campaign against forcible Deportations to Iraq.



Long Live March 8
The Day to Fight Gender Inequality

ECHOES

NEWSLETTER3

19 March 2007

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No to Detention no to Deportations