

## Refugee Day in Kurdistan



Commemorating the World Refugee Day, the Kurdistan branch of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Sulaimani in a ceremony on June the 20th 2017 in the presence of some MPs, the representative of some Civil Society Organisations and the victims' families who lost their loved ones in the Aegean sea has paid a tribute to the Message of the federation of fighting for and protecting the international rights of refugees. The ceremony started with a minute silence remembering the lost lives of those refugees who ended up dying in the seas. Then the Speech of the federation was read by Botan Muhammad. A video reportage on the federation activities in all over the Europe and in Kurdistan was also presented which showed, of course, the life condition of the refugees too. And the representative of the different delegations like, the Redland Alliance, the Heath Care Agencies and Civil Society Organisations have given their speeches, paying a tribute to the federations and confirming their supports as well. Moreover, Ary Jalal, the General Director of the Kurdistan branch of the International federation of Iraqi Refugees in a speech for the press has announced the 66 anniversary of the world refugee day and gave the data of the tragic sea massacre of the people whom their bodies ended up in the shores of the European countries and those who are returned to Kurdistan. At the end of his speech, he has read three vital points for the responsible agencies and the press:

1- Urgent and serious work against that treaty between Iraqi government and some of the European Government to deport the refugees, which some of the countries have put into work in the past and present time. This has caused difficult psychological issues for the refugees in a way that it gave some tragic outcomes as some people committed suicide acts. This deportation policy of refugees, sending them back to Iraqi and Kurdistan airports shall not be supported but one shall stand against such policies.

2. Urgent work to search and look for those people who are not yet found and their destiny is still unknown. A number of these people have been by the federation recorded but the federation expect that the number is much more than what we have now.

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## Refugee Day In Switzerland



On Saturday 17 June The Swiss branch of IFIR held a solidarity evening in Zurich. Ahmed Ali IFIR Swiss secretary welcomed everyone following that Dashty Jamal Secretary of IFIR visiting from the UK spoke about the political and economic crises in Kurdistan; the many people affected by poverty; the referendum in Kurdistan. Following the speeches people were served food and finished the evening dancing to music provided by a local DJ.

## IFIR Statement for Refugee Day

**Refugees are victims of war, terror and destruction  
on World refugee day**

On world refugee day, 20 June 2017, we call on all freedom loving people and organisations defending the rights of refugees to stand up against the terrible conditions that refugees face are facing across Europe. Let us look at the factors causing people to flee their homes and become refugees. Today's world which is swinging between war, Islamic terrorism and international terrorism has created a state of fear and feeling of insecurity across the world. The fundamentalism of these two forces has barbarically touched the lives of millions of innocent people. With the aim of changing the balance of power, expanding their territories, re-dividing the world and the markets of fortune. The USA has unleashed wars that have forced people to leave their homes. They have demolished the civilisation of countries across the Middle East and Africa, turning schools, hospitals, train stations and restaurants into battlefields of terrorist activities That have forced so many to flee their homes, and resulted in millions of refugees trying to escape the ongoing crises by risking their lives crossing dangerous seas seeking safety and security. >> >continued on page 7

## PCS Conference Voted Against Forced Deportation to Iraq

At the second day of the Annual Public and Commercial Service Union Conference, held in Brighton attended by over 700 members, out of 200,000, from across the UK, delegates voted unanimously in favor of stopping the forced deportation of Iraqi refugees back to Iraq.



The motion was put forward by the Department for Communities and Local Government HQ National Branch. The motion stated:

This conference notes:

The 'campaign to stop deportation to Iraq' set up in April 2017 by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) with the aim of campaigning against the Home office's policy of deportation Iraqi Asylum seekers back to Iraq and supporting Iraqi at risk of deportation.

That a very large number of Iraqis have been detained for deportation since April 2017, which is more than at any time since 2011.

IFIR fears that the British state may be in the process of arranging a chartered flight to deport those detained on mass.

IFIR has a website at [www.federationifir.com](http://www.federationifir.com) and may be written to at [ifir@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ifir@hotmail.co.uk).

This conference agrees to support the campaign to stop Deportation to Iraq by publicizing the campaign amongst PCS members and writing a letter. Support of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)

Writing a letter to the UKBA calling on them to cease deporting Iraqi refugees and release all Iraqis currently detained for deportation

Writing a letter to the President of Iraq not to accept Iraqis who are forcibly returned from Europe.

Dashty Jamal, Secretary of IFIR said "this is a huge victory for our campaign against forced deportation. It's reassuring to know that we have the support of the PCS trade union and its members. Trade Unions have been long time supporters of IFIR and we express our thanks to the PCS and its members and its general secretary. I would also like to give a special thanks to Chris Hickey from DCLG PCS branch"



### The Home Office are responsible for the death of Rawand Muhammad Ali and Awat Ahmad.

On Tuesday 16th May Awat Ahmad, a Kurdish asylum seeker, lost his life at his work place for unknown reasons. The place of his death is still closed and Awat's body was being kept at St. George's hospital in London and later through the help of IFIR their bodies have been sent back to their families in Kurdistan.

Awat was 29 years old. According to his cousin, he came to the UK as a refugee in 2006 when he was under 18, and was granted temporary permission to stay. However, after he came of age his permission was not renewed and he remained in the country without official "leave to remain".

Khalid, one of his friends, said: "Awat's wish was to get permanent residency in the UK. He was a hard worker and a kind person. He worked in the car wash for the past few years."

Khalid added: "I saw him in the last month, he asked me for a music CD and said to me, 'I wish I get residency before I die.' I tried to comfort him."

Rawand Muhammad Ali was 33 years old. Rawand from north of Iraq he came to the UK in 2008, and because of the pressure of his asylum claim he became mentally ill until 11<sup>th</sup> of June he committed suicide in Manchester Hill Park. Dashty Jamal, secretary of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees said: "Our thoughts are with Rawand and Awat's families and friends through these difficult times."

This tragic and sudden death is by no means the first of its kind. Many Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers, as well as many refugees of other nationalities, have committed suicide in the last 10 years, when they were threatened with deportation or simply after years of refusal and waiting. "Dashty Jamal added: "Rawand and Awat's dream to get UK residency never came true. He is another victim of the inhuman politics of the British government against asylum seekers. The UK Government must start an investigation into these deaths as soon as possible. Our federation is ready to stand with Rawand and Awat's family in order to achieve this."

Dashty also said "both Rawand and Awat's bodies have been returned to Kurdistan and buried by their families and IFIR Kurdistan branch".



## Demonstration against forcible deportation to Iraq



On Thursday 13th April, the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) held a picket in front of the Home Office in London. The protest was against the arrest and detention of 30 Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers. Those arrested have lived in the UK for as long as 17 years, and one of those detained has two young children with his long term partner in the UK. The detainees have been informed they will be removed from the UK in the next 7 to 10 days. IFIR fears this means the UK Government is preparing the first forcible deportation charter flight since 2011.

The picket was attended by approximately 100 people made up of family members and friends of those held, the Iraqi community, PCS activists and human and refugee rights campaigners.

Michael Chessum from Another Europe is Possible introduced speakers. Jean Lambert, Green Party MEP for London, spoke of how de-

plorable it was that the UK Government would even think of deporting to Iraq at this time, when parts of Iraq were still caught up in the war against ISIS.

Dashty Jamal, secretary of IFIR, thanked those attending, and informed the protest of a forced deportation that happened on Tuesday, when one of the detainees was put in hand cuffs and leg irons and locked in the toilet of an aircraft for several hours, and was only released when the plane landed in Baghdad. He reported that IFIR has written to Amber Rudd, the Home Secretary, demanding the immediate release of all Iraqi detainees; an end to all depurations to Iraq; refugee status for all Iraqi refugees; and an end to the deportation agreement with the Iraqi government.

Other speakers included PCS representatives Karen Johnson and Charlie McDonald; Momentum activist Liam McNulty; Right to Remain activist Marienna Pope-Widemann; Worker Communist Party of Kurdistan activist Noori Basher; and community rights activists Khaled Asinger and Zana Sherwany.

The protest was lively, with Kurdish and English slogans chanted, including: No deportations to Iraq; forcible deportation is a violation of human rights legislation; Iraqi refugees are a victim of war and violence; refugee rights are human rights; release all Kurdish & Iraqi detainees; Iraqi refugees say we are victims of state and non-state terrorism; refugees are welcome here; and no to deportation, no to detention!

At the end of the demonstration, Dashty Jamal thanked the attendees and promised to continue the campaign to stop forcible deportations to Iraq. A number of Kurdish media stations such as RUDAW, NRT filmed the protest.

### Dashty Jamal Speech in front of Home Office in London on 13 April 2017

On Behalf of IFIR I would like to thank you all for coming here today to protest at the UKBA forcibly deporting Iraqi refugees. I would like to give special thanks to Jean Lambert who has always supported our refugee rights freedom of expression in Kurdistan, and of course thank you to all of the families of those held who have travelled so far to get here today.

I want first to inform you of a forced deportation that happened on Tuesday. One Iraqi was put in hand cuffs and leg irons and locked in the toilet of an aircraft for several hours. He was only released when the plane landed in Baghdad.

As you know not since 2011 have so many Iraqis have been picked up at one time. They are currently being held in Colnbrook, Harmondsworth and Morton Hall detention centres. Many have been residents in the UK for ten to seventeen years. Arresting people in this way and giving them no information about what is going to happen to them is an illegal action. This action by UKBA is not acceptable as set out in the Geneva Convention and rights of refugees.

Last week Iraqi refugees called by an immigration officer into an interview with three Iraqi officials and one UKBA official, but the refugees refused to meet the Iraqi officials.

This is unacceptable that the UKBA has clearly made an agreement with the Iraqi Government and is making deals with the lives of these victims who are refugees. The UK Government is clearly seeking to legitimise its agreement with Iraqi Government. The UKBA wants to avoid responsibility for this action by blaming the Iraqi officials.

Theresa May with this inhuman far right policy wants to appease her racist supporters but does not want to take responsibility for what she has done in this shameful deal with the Iraqi Government. We call on all human rights organisations and freedom loving people to stand with us to stop this agreement and to cease this plan that forcibly deports Iraqi refugees. The UKBA must respect the rights of refugees and must not put the future of refugees at risk at a time when Iraq is being plagued by war and violence. The refugees are not dolls to be used in a game between the UKBA and Iraqi government. We cannot accept that the lives of refugees will be gambled upon. The UK Government wants to forget its legacy of war on Iraq that led to so many refugees and displaced people being forced to flee Iraq in 2005.

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## No to Detention No to Deportation

## Jean Lambert MEP Green Party Member of the European Parliament for London letter to Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP Home Secretary Home Office, 19 April 2017



Dear Home Secretary

### Detention and planned removal of Iraqi asylum seekers

I am writing concerning more than 30 Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers who have been detained in Colnbrook Detention Centre. I understand that these individuals have been interviewed by Iraqi officials and following these interviews, many have been cleared by the UK Government for removal.

I am particularly concerned about the nature of any agreement the UK Government has with the Iraqi Government regarding

the return of Iraqis and Kurds who are not safe in Iraq and are seeking asylum in the UK. Regrettably, Iraq remains plagued by war and violence and continues to experience a spiral of conflict between different religious, nationalist and Islamic groups, which includes ISIS but involves other actors too. It remains unsafe for those who have been forced to flee and seek asylum.

Also, some of those subject to these detentions and planned removals have married in the UK and have children born here: they have a right to family life, which should be protected. It is essential that the UK protects the rights of Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees and treats them with dignity and respect. It is also paramount that the UK adheres to both the letter and the spirit of its obligations under international law to asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people.

I am concerned that these detentions and planned removals will be putting people directly at risk, and urge that these actions are urgently halted and the policy reviewed.

In particular I urge you to halt these removals; end deportation agreements with the Iraqi Government; release those Iraqis that have been detained; and give refugees status to all Iraqis in the UK in need of protection.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Jean Lambert MEP Green Party Member of the European Parliament for London

### Iraq MPs say no more deportations to Iraq

Over 100 members of the Iraqi Parliament have signed a resolution to urge the federal government of Iraq to refuse to accept the forced deportation of Iraqis from the countries

they seek refuge in.

It comes as over 50 Kurdish and Iraqi people have been detained in UK immigration detention centres over the last month. The UK government has been unable to deport refugees to Iraq after a campaign by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR in Iraq pressured the government there to stop accepting forced deportations.

However, under pressure from the UK and other European governments the government in Baghdad appears to be reneging on promises they have made.

The 104 MPs have made the commitment in response to the IFIR campaign. Please find the application for the resolution below and the names and signatures of the MPs attached.

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.

Dear President of Iraqi Parliament

Number: 195

Date: 26/04/2017

First Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker

**Subject: Request for Resolution**

In acknowledgement of the threat imposed by the security conditions on the lives and livelihoods of our citizens, that lead many of them to seek refuge where their lives, dignity and rights are protected, and as a result of the forced deportation procedures that Iraqi refugees are subjected to in some countries, many deported Iraqis are subjected to threats of physical elimination, suicidal tendencies and enormous financial and psychological pressures. Therefore, we urge your Excellency to allow a resolution urging the federal government of Iraq to take all necessary measures to prevent the forced deportation of Iraqis from the countries they seek refuge in.

## Stop Deportation Flight to Iraqi

## Vigil for those murdered by terrorist attack in London

On the 6 of June 2017 at

six pm Thousands gathered in front of the Mayor's office at London Bridge to protest against London terror attacks. Representatives from International Federation of Iraqi Refugees were there with placards stating 'Ending terrorism is the task of civilized humanity'. Federation of Iraqi Refugees also distributed leaflets. At the end of the vigil, in the pouring rain Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees queued with many others to leave flowers.

### IFIR condemns the Wednesday 22 March terrorist attack on London & expresses our sorrow to all of the victims

The International Federation of Iraq Refugees offers its sincere condolences to the families of those who have been killed in Wednesday's terror attack.

Our thoughts are with all of the people who have been affected by this terrible terror attack on the people of London. We understand that 5 people were killed and a further estimated 40 people were injured, seven of those remain seriously injured in hospital in a critical condition.

We stand in solidarity with the victims and their families following this shocking terror attack involving a car being driven into innocent people walking across Westminster Bridge. We stand in solidarity with all victims of terrorism whatever their sexuality or colour from Mosul Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Orlando, Paris and London.

ISIS have taken responsibility for this barbaric attack. ISIS aims through killing, exploding and barbarity to drive all of humanity into the most bloody and gloomy phase of modern history by drowning the civilised world in blood, terror and killings as a means to divide power and wealth of society. ISIS is a black spectre overwhelming human society.

The US and western allies say they stand against ISIS, to the extent that they can but their only aim is to gain power and wealth through the turmoil created in the area. The only force, which can fight ISIS and have interest in cleansing ISIS, is the civilised humanity and freedom-loving front. This force is represented by the working class and the toiling mass and freedom-loving youth, men and women. We ask that you join with us and the progressive voices of freedom loving people to stand against state terrorism and non-state terrorism

### International Federation of Iraqi Refugees condemns Manchester tragedy

23 May 2017

On the 22 May 2017 at 10:30 pm a suicide bomber attacked the Ariana Grand concert, which was full of children and teenagers. At the time of writing this report 22 people have died and 59 injured.

IFIR condemns this tragic crime against humanity and expresses our sadness at this slaughter of innocent people. At this sad time we offer our solidarity and condolences to the families of those affected by this cowardly attack.

This world needs cleansing of all those who support Islamic terrorist groups. We call for an end to all state and non-state terrorism. We must all stand together against the development of political Islam across the world.



### London attacked by Terrorists

the UK in the last three months.

On the 27 April once again Islamic Terrorists blinded by hate and prejudice have carried out a horrific attack on the people of London killing 7 people and injuring a further 50 people. This is the third terror attack to happen in

The terrorists drove a white van into pedestrians at London Bridge. Following this awful attack the terrorists jumped out of the van carrying 12 inch knives, eye witness account tell of them kicking and stomping over the people they had just run down, from the scene of their crime they ran to the nearby bars and restaurants of Borough Market randomly stabbing anyone who crossed their path.

Islamic terrorists do not differentiate between the people of Europe or the Middle East. They murder indiscriminately anyone who does not share their ideology from Christians in Egypt to murdering innocent people in Baghdad, Kabul, Syria, Paris, Belgium and the UK. Their aim is to divide us. Civilised people from across the world regardless of colour and faith must join together and stand against their barbarous acts. These terrorist attacks encourage the people supporting racism and right wing parties to discriminate against people and divide us. Political Islam is itself a product of the policy of Europe and the US in East. Political Islam is an inseparable part of the power in this region. It is used in every social aspect, in education, law-making, social culture and so on. The US and Western states know this fact but they don't combat it. On the contrary, they classified Islam as moderate and extremist and under the name of democracy they supported political Islam and its groups just to fulfil their strategy in the East. Neglecting secularism and equal rights for citizens and dividing the Eastern societies by ethnic and sectarian groups is a part of their multiculturalism policy. This has been another factor and even background for ISIS to emerge. >>>>continued on page 8

**Ending Terrorism is the task of civilised Humanity**

## Dashty Jamal Secretary of IFIR speech at opening rally of 18 March Demonstration "stand up Against Racism" in London



I would like to thank you all for coming here today to protest at the treatment of refugees. People whose only crime is to flee a war zone to look for a safe place to raise their families must not be treated in this way. We are here today to tell the government you are responsible for what happens in the Middle East and North Africa.

Imagine your home is under daily bombardment; that your town is under the control of ISIS or Boko Haram's tribal and barbaric rules. Imagine if your children were kidnapped and sold as slaves, what would you do? Refugees do not have any other choice but to take their children and runaway.

We are here today to tell Theresa May and Donald trump that you are leading governments, which are responsible for what has happened and still happens in the Middle East. Remember 14 years ago when the USA and UK state started the

war on Iraq. You are destroying a society and now your war and bombarding in Syria and Iraq has nothing to do with ISIS. It is an imperialist war between America and Russia each attempting to increase their stakes in the oil rich Middle East.

Our movement is part of working class fight to build a better human society. Theresa May wants to divide us on the basis of race, nationality and religion. It has put the working class around the world in a war of inequality, confronting each other. The civilized humanity in Europe, North America and worldwide has proved that racism and fascism will not find a voice if a united progressive front is established.

We need our voice to be heard. Let us make this day the beginning of a new era of equal citizenship defending the right of escaping refugees. Let us destroy the borders and make Europe once again a land embracing humanity and freedom. Let us begin here to build a strong movement, to put the Governments of the world under pressure to stop war, under the slogan we are all citizens of the world, we want a world without borders

Let us also unite against Trump's racist policies! Within days of becoming president, Donald Trump signed an executive order that banned refugees from seven countries from entering the US under the pretext of "protecting national security".

This executive order signed by Trump is a reflection of Trump's racist ethics. This order comes amid a growing racist campaign by a faction of the bourgeoisie in Europe, and North America against refugees under the banner of "war on terror"

Donald Trump is the leader of the right wing Republican Party he is from the same tradition of Marine Le Pen. Theresa May and supporters of Brexit in Britain are other examples of these racist policies. All these personalities and forces are united within the framework of a broad global right-wing campaign against basic human rights.

Donald trump has become the symbol of fascist and racist movements in the West. The war declared by Trump's administration on Islamic terrorism is in fact a war on refugees.

Previous American administrations have supported Islamic terrorist groups and the countries that sponsored these groups like Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The new US administration treats refugees and immigrants inhumanely at a time when it turns a blind eye to the crimes committed by Saudi Arabia and Turkey that lead the global Islamic terrorism and gave birth to ISIS, Al-Qaida and other terrorist Islamic groups.

Trump cannot end terror through policies against refugees. The masses of people in Iraq, Syria and Yemen are the victims of terrorism: Both the US state terrorism and Islamic terrorism which has flourished as a result of direct support from the West in the region.

This measure by Trump will not end terror it will help it thrive and encourage racist, religious conflicts. The entire tragic conditions imposed on the people of Middle East and Africa are the direct result of US policies, its wars and its support of the reactionary and terrorist forces in the region for over half a century. It is a lie, to claim that this order will reduce terrorism. Mass protests across American cities are a rejection of these racist policies. Civilized humanity in Europe, North America has proved that racism and fascism will not find a footing if a united progressive front is established.

Donald trump travel ban is happening at the same time as we are seeing the daily tragedy of civilians in Africa being forced out of their villages desperately looking for food. At the same time civilians fleeing Mosul are caught between ISIS militants and Iraqi troops, are also dying for lack of food and medical aid. The right to travel, work and look for a secure place to live are basic human rights. It is important that we build a progressive front which defends the rights of refugees and immigrants that defeats Trump's and right wing European racist policies.

**>>>>from page1 Refugee day in Kurdistan....3.** Urgent work to make the life of the refugees in the local and abroad camps better, providing them with more humanitarian aids.

The federation was honoured and given prizes by the Redland Alliance, Shorsh Health Care Agency and the Kurdistan Youth High Committee of Art for all those activities which the federation had in Kurdistan and abroad as well.

It is worth remembering that this ceremony was sponsored by " Donya Ddecore" company. There was also a photographic exhibition showing the federation activities within and outside Kurdistan. The press has interviewed the federation representative and some of the victim's families.





>>>>from page 1 IFIR Statement for Refugee Day

. After coping with all these difficulties, suffering all sorts of atrocities, they hope for a chance to get their lives back in a European country. Instead refugees are faced with the fenced borders of European countries. Sixty Six years have passed since the Geneva Convention was introduced in 1951. Countries signing this treaty have not only closed their eyes to the articles of the treaty, they have sought to change and narrow down the rules and fundamental rights protecting refugees.

The refugees are victims of the conflicting war policy of the imperialist forces of USA, Russia and Europe with the aim of controlling the Markets and their fortunes. Furthermore, they are not admitting the terrible outcomes of their actions.

They have instead made many more obstacles for the flee-

ing refugees forced into risking the lives of their families and children, crossing seas in an attempt to find safety. According to the statistics of the Head of the international refugee agency: 1700 refugees have died crossing the sea and in the last 5 months, 64 thousand refugees have reached the borders of European countries. In the last year alone 230 thousand refugees have registered at the borders of European countries. On one hand European countries have closed their borders and used troops to control their borders. On the other hand, the refugees are kept in tents and plastic houses in jungles and military camps.

In the camps the refugees are tortured; crimes against refugees have been recorded. Apart from all of this, the unbearable situation in the camps has left many of the refugees with psycho problems. On Samos Island 12 refugees have committed suicide. Not to mention the policy of deportation and holding the refugees in detention centers. European Governments have made the refugee crisis an excuse and accuse the refugees of attacking fundamental civilized rules of the Europeans. Each one of them blames the refugees for their own fatal crisis and each one of them seeks to reduce the number of refugees they take in. They have started a meaningless propaganda war against refugees stating that the refugees are the reason for the lack of jobs and cuts to services. Terrorist attacks are seen as if they have been carried out by the refugees. Thus, they are making the fire of racism, disgusting and disrespecting of refugees.

However the power of freedom loving people across the world. The power of millions of the Left wing groups and the workers are able to be the force to change and redirect the mission to serve the security and the coexistence of society.

-So let us unite on World Refugee Day against terrorist forces.

-Let us step on the ground to stop the military scandals and the destruction of the Middle East, to stop the policy of supporting the Islamist extremists.

-Let us, for the sake of providing freedom, social peacefulness and secularity and a prosperous life in Middle Eastern countries, stand in the face of America, Russia and European countries.

-Let us, at the same time, on world refugee day, work hand in hand to change the European rules in the benefit of providing prosperity, freedom, equality and ending the policy of degrading.

-Let us, in this horrifying state of war, terror, destruction and human massacre, show another image of Humanity and Humanitarian aids.

-Let us draw the curtain of degrading, suspension and marginalization to give peace back to our society. Let us bury terror and terrorism which is against the nature of humankind and our current civilised community.

>>>>from page 3 Dashty Jamal's Speech ..The UK Government wants to forget its legacy of war on Iraq that led to so many refugees and displaced people being forced to flee Iraq in 2005.

I want to remind the UKBA of the UK Government's bad decision to support the USA-led war on Iraq. The legacy of this invasion continues today. Iraqi people are divided into tribal, ethnic and religious sects, as Shias, Sunnis, Christians, Kurds, Turkmens as a result. The war did not deliver democracy as promised. In Kurdistan and Iraq there is no democracy, no respect for workers or women's rights. There is no freedom of organising, freedom of expression and speech or freedom of thought. In the Kurdish region of Iraq workers have been shot at for calling for payment of unpaid wages.

The instability in Iraq, which had enabled ISIS to take control of many parts of Iraq and the on-going war, is a direct result of the actions of the UK state. Iraqi refugees in the UK have right to seek refuge from the civil war taking place in Iraq including Mosul and Kirkuk. It is a disgrace to send people back to Iraq in the middle of a refugee crisis when hundreds of thousands are forced to take the dangerous journey across the sea, when so many are stranded in refugee camps across Greece. The war against ISIS is far from over. It is immoral to return people to the region where ISIS as we speak are still wreaking havoc and so many people are displaced and suffer in the continuing battle for Mosul.

We are here with a strong voice to call on the UK Government to immediately release the 30 Iraqis detained and to put an end to this policy of deporting people back to Iraq. We have written a letter to Amber Rudd which we are delivering today calling on the British government to: Immediately halt these deportations Stop you agreement with iraq goverment Immediate release of all iraqi refugees in detention centre Give all Iraqi's in the UK refugees status Finally Let us destroy all borders and make Europe once again a land embracing humanity and freedom.

>>>>from page London attacked... The policy of the USA and European states against asylum seekers and refugees is another factor to push young people to join ISIS. Progressive and human loving people worldwide should stand up to the state terrorism of these powers as well as Daesh and other Islamic terrorists. Progressive people are the only force that can put an end to this endless cycle of terror in the Middle East, as well as the current attacks in European countries. It is the duty of the working class movement and civil humanity to stop terrorism. It is time to stand up and ask those who support political Islam to stop, and also stop intervening in the Middle East. IFIR condemns this horrendous attack in London and expresses our sadness at this slaughter of innocent people. At this sad time we offer our solidarity and condolences to the families of those affected by this cowardly attack.

**The Federation hosted a meeting to celebrate the work of Bahar Munzir in celebration of International Women's Day.**

As part of their International Women's day celebration the Federation hosted a seminar for Bahar Munzir, co-ordinator of the People Development Organisation and board member of the Kurdistan secular centre (KSC) on Wednesday 15 March at the Institute of Education, London.

Bahar discussed the plight of Yazidi women who have been kidnapped and raped by ISIS. She talked of the work she had undertaken to help those who had escaped from ISIS. Germany has taken 1,200 Yazidi women victims of ISIS. She also talked about campaigning to support the many women and children displaced by the ongoing fighting in Mosul. Bahar spoke of the many campaigns she had worked on with the Hana Group and Kurdistan IFIR branch to support displaced women and children in refugee camps. She also talked about the different projects People Development Organisation had organised in refugee camps across Kurdistan.

At the end of the seminar Bahar answered questions from the attendees. The seminar was viewed live by 2,000 people on line.

**IFIR sent an open letter to Turkish Airline, King Abdulla (Royal Jordanian Airline) and Qatar 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 Qatar 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 : 26<sup>h</sup> June 2017**

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