



الاتحاد العام للاجئين العراقيين  
فيدراسيونى سهراسهري په نابهرانى عيراقى

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES-IFIR

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## **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 will 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-IFIR

For more information or to join the campaign contact Dashty Jamal Secretary, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees on 07856032991 l, [d.jamal@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.jamal@ntlworld.com) or Sarah Parker from csdiraq.on 0208-809-0633 email [sarahp107@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahp107@hotmail.com) or Karen Johnson on 07804891082 [karen8johnson@btinternet.com](mailto:karen8johnson@btinternet.com) See also our website [www.csdiraq.com](http://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.

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