



الاتحاد العام للاجئين العراقيين
فيدراسيونى سهراسهري په نابهرانى عيراقى

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES-IFIR

urgent news

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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 luggage (including their mobile phones). Sherwan 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.

IFIR in the UK and Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq are planning a meeting in Parliament hosted by John McDonnell and European wide protests; the times and dates will follow.

Regards
Dashty Jamal
Secretary of 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 I, d.jamal@ntlworld.com or Sarah Parker from csdiraq.on 0208-809-0633 email

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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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