

Restoring a peaceful and comfortable life for Iraqi refugees free from violence is the responsibility of UNHCR

The 20th of June 2021 is the international day of refugees. Therefore, the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) directs the following letter to the department of refugees of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regarding the violence that is committed against refugees.

Putting refugees in a prolonged status of waiting, not responding to their claims, and the ignorance of the UNHCR about the refugees, has led to them facing an extremely difficult life. Committing suicide, psychological illness and repeatedly fires have led to their camps being burned down in Greece, Iraq, Syria and other countries.

The latest tragedy was at the camp of Sharia which is occupied by Yazidi refugees, a camp in Duhok that burned down tens of refugees' tents. This difficult situation has led to the refugees undertaking any kind work just to survive. Working on farms, industry fields, night shift jobs and women as nannies in houses and in the brothels, to the extent of making children work. This is the real difficulty that many refugees face.

Also, the policy of the UNHCR and its ignorant behaviour towards refugees is the preliminary cause of the Camp of Makhmoor which is under UNHCR supervision and has housed more than 12 thousand refugees since 1998. This camp has been bombarded many times from the air by Turkish military planes. The Kurdistan Democratic Party under pressure from Turkey has put economic sanctions and cut off all kinds of services from them and socially isolated the camp of Makmour.

The Camp of Al Jadaa in the southern part of Mosul the majority of its refugees are the spouses of Daish fighters, their children, their relatives, seniors and disabled holds approximately thirty thousand refugees, these people are considered war criminals and deprived of the very basic amenities of life.

This is nevertheless the decision that has been made by Iraqi government and its agenda to take back the refugees and put them in camps. By this action, they deprived tens of refugees of the services and without giving them any shelter. The aid and help has been stopped and their camps have been shut off. This is a disgrace, these actions are carried by the authorities in front of the eyes of the UNHCR organization of the refugees and the UNHCR does not take any action to at least limit it, or stop it and also question the perpetrators.

Even the countries who signed the Geneva resolution for the refugees' rights that it is under the umbrella of this organization have not condemned even once those kinds of inhuman actions that are carried out against refugees inside their countries by racists. The news and the reports are full of these kinds of violence against refugees in their camps. This is despite the problems of child marriage, sexual harassment, prostitution of women and children that refugees face in the camps without having any minimum standards of health and safety in the camps.

A huge wave of escaping and fleeing of millions has become a practical and real crisis which is continuing and it not related to just a specific area or country, but has become worldwide phenomenon and it will grow due to the conflicts between the blocks of imperialists in order to divide areas of authority and find markets for their products.

Military intervention, economic sanction, a political gap, war and proxy wars by states, groups, mercenary parties, and terrorist groups have made the situation inhumane. So, war, safety, nationality hatred between people has forced compulsory migration on millions of people.

As per the UN High Commissioner's statement on world refugee day more than 82.4 million men, women and children have been forced to leave their homes this year alone, 26 million of those are under 18 years old and they have sought refuge asylum through the United Nations for refugees, and 45 million and 700 thousand people are refugees in their own countries.

Also, according to the immigration department of Turkey, within the past 6 months of this year until the 2nd of June 2021, 45,716 refugees have been caught at the borders of Turkey. And 1566 are the refugees of Kurdistan and Iraq that come fourth in the rank after Afghan, Syrian and Pakistani refugees.

According to the Federation representative in Turkey, there are tens of refugees in Turkey that have been put in prisons and camps. Some of them do not want to be returned to Kurdistan due to the threat on their life by the authorities of Kurdistan and some due to some other issues.

Also, the numbers of the refugees that have lost their lives within the past six months of this year until the 2nd of June 2021 are 168 refugees, and 2 of them were Kurdish that their corpses were returned to Kurdistan. Since 2018 until now more than 10 Kurdish refugees have disappeared.

Therefore, the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, directing this discontented letter to the UNHCR of refugees, and demand them to:

1. To end immediately the policy of making refugees and war immigrants wait in the camps and isolating them from civic life. They have to be transferred to a safe place that all people deserve to have.
2. The UNHCR to force the countries that have made refugees wait in their camps; protect them from the threat of racism and violence. Also, to provide them with all their daily needs of food, clothes, health and school materials.
3. To make the governments of Europe, America, Australia, Canada, and all others that made refugees wait in their camps, to give them asylum and to end the situation that they live in now.
4. Shutting down the camps of refugees has to be replaced with giving them new shelters, giving them identities, and providing them with their needs in life. And also, they have to be treated as their citizens equally.
5. The spouses, children, the relatives of Daish, and the disabled people and seniors in Syria and Iraq camps should be treated as humans and given aid and help to re-join society. Also, to implant the idea to love humanity in them instead of violence.
6. To limit the tragedy of deaths in the seas and make the countries that refugees cross through to immediately open their borders and to remove the barbed wires in order not to leave refugees no option but to take danger roads via seas and forests.
7. The governments of Europe should be forced to cancel their anti-refugee agreement with Turkey to prevent refugees from entering and to repatriate them.
8. To make all countries that refugees cross through on their journey to Europe track and find the disappeared immigrants that have been reported missing.
9. To immediately free all imprisoned immigrants held in detention Centres.
10. The West and Europe countries should avoid their interference policy and to stop supporting the gangs, groups, and the oppressing countries that made their people face war and social unrest. They should also cancel all their hidden promises and agreements with them.

11. The UNHCR organization for refugees be activate in the areas and countries that face wars and social conflicts. And also, to help the refugees and immigrants and through this method to make the governments of Europe recognize the rights of immigrants and refugees and to transfer them to a better, safer place and area.

12. Provide the refugees with all they need through a planned method and to get refugees integrated fast with the societies that they seek asylum in. And to provide them with all individual, social and economic needs equally.

13. To officially recognize the political asylum seekers that escaped war, nations and religious conflicts. And also, to help all those who fled due to their gender and to start their new safe and happy life.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR), will continue to struggle, in order to abolish: the policy of creating refugee camps where people are stranded for many years. We will continue to fight racism, gender disparity, and also will struggle to achieve equality for all refugees. And also, we ask all the refugee rights' organizations support our letter and to force the UNHCR to respond to our demands laid out in this letter.

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