

English Supplement

# Al-Muntada

of the Iraqi Association

www.iraqiassociation.org

## IRAQI ASSOCIATION

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## Local Council must Redress the Burden of the Move



Following the decision of the Hammersmith and Fulham Council to sell Palingswick House and turn it into a free school, many of the twenty-three charities in the building could be left homeless or relocated elsewhere. Iraqi Association is one of the charities which have been affected by the burden of this move.

The discussion with Hammersmith and Fulham to relocate the groups was based on the council's proposal to create three community hubs. However, the relocation hubs were reduced to one, and so far this proposal has not

been materialised, and that the proposed location requires extensive repair work.

We always argued that the council must reconsider its decision as displacing local charity groups forms the backbone of the Big Society, and that the move will hit local residents, and increases costs to provide such specialist services elsewhere.

The council's argument is based on reducing its debts, but it is clear that creating a free school costs more of the taxpayers' funds, which contradicts the council's intention to dispose of Palingswick House to the

highest bidder. The other issue is that Palingswick House is a small building on a corner on a three-lane main road, and has very little outside space. The children may struggle to digest their education because of noise and extremely traffic, as it is located between a large hotel and Latymer Upper School. Beside that, this leaves many questions unanswered, as many of our local residents raising the issue of how the West London Free School's takeover of Palingswick House will be paid for?

The burden of the move increases pressure on our services, as it affects many of our users in the borough, and has increased uncertainty. This move raises immediate concerns, which we hope the council will reconsider. First the proposed relocation does not have minimum space to keep the affected charities. Second, it requires extensive repair work. Third, the cost of the move needs to be compensated, as we operate on a shoestring budget and prudent costs.

We say it, because we provide locally good value for money services, to deliver positive changes to the lives of more than 2000 local residents, most of them are vulnerable people.

Help an orphaned child this summer...

£22 will feed an orphaned Iraqi child for a week.

Donate online:  
[www.iraqiassociation.org](http://www.iraqiassociation.org)

Or post to: IraqChild,  
Freepost 21599 London  
W6 9BR

Charity No. 1101109



## Planning for Success in Austerity Times

Change – some people fear it, others resist it, but most accept that it is inevitable. 2011 looks set to be a year of significant changes on a number of different fronts. Cuts and austerity measure hits most community groups, Iraqi Association has started a process to

plan with austerity climate. The role of community engagement in the planning to challenge this new era is getting stronger and becoming more influential.

Iraqi Association is a small non sectarian charity, operating on a prudent budget to deliver positive changes to the lives of more than 2500 people every year. During our consultation meetings with our charity service users, many comments and feedback information suggests that the cuts and austerity measures will marginalise small charities and that will make Britain more unequal place to live.

The process is continuing and will lead to the revamp of the charity's long term strategy and its plan to meet the harsh reality of the cuts. Other feedback information confirms the fact that the cuts will undermine small charities' role to deliver the idea of the Big Society, as they rely on recruiting and supervising volunteers. For example, is it fair to displace dozens of community organisations from Hammersmith and Fulham's Pallinswick House only to sell the community building? Is the Big Society meant for all, or only for some?

Since its inception in 1987, Iraqi Association has been working with volunteers, and on average, the charity engages with 10 volunteers every week. We are pleased to say that the process of consultation meetings led lively debates, as well as significant interest from the

community and charity users. This includes, Trustees, staff, volunteers and service users, particularly young people.

We are very grateful for the support of The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, through Shared Learning project to start this work.



## A evening with the London based Iraqi filmmaker Koutaiba Al Janabi



Koutaiba Al-Janabi

Koutaiba was born in Baghdad, studied photography and cinematography at the Academy of Drama and Film in Budapest, Hungary. His photographic work was shown in several exhibitions worldwide, and he also published a book 'Far from Baghdad' of his still images. Iraq Association organised an evening in west London for Koutaiba to talk about his latest film, Leaving Baghdad, more than 100 people attended.

As a Director of Photography, he worked on various feature films and documentaries, winning prizes for his cinematography. As an independent film maker, he directed and produced short films, among the titles, such as 'Still Life', 'Wasteland', 'Baghdadi Correspondent', 'Against the Light', '7 Days with Gypsies' Night trains.

'Leaving Baghdad' is the first feature length film for Koutaiba as a director. The film won best feature prize at the 2011 Gulf Film festival.

'Leaving Baghdad' is a road movie, shot in Iraq, the UK, Hungary, that follows Sadik, the personal cameraman to the past dictator Saddam. The story is set during the time of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, at the end of the nineties. Sadik is trying to escape the grip of the regime, being pushed from

country to country by events around him, and smugglers and crooks on his journey. Sadik suffers from paranoia and constant fear. The Iraqi secret police are after him because he is carrying video evidence of the atrocities committed. Sadik is dreaming to go to London to join his wife who is, however, unwilling to help. In his grief and loneliness, Sadik writes letters to his son, Semir. These letters turn into a confession revealing Sadik's past and the real reason for his fleeing, his endless waiting and his paranoia. The actors in the film are not professionals, their lives are part of the story.

The U.K distributor, Dogwoof Films has picked up UK rights to Koutaiba Al Janabi's controversial drama Leaving Baghdad, which had its world premiere at the Dubai International Film Festival. Dogwoof head Andy Whitaker sealed the deal in Cannes, with plans for a UK release later this year.

### Cast & Credits

Director: Koutaiba Al Janabi

Producer: Hanna Heffner, Koutaiba Al Janabi

Scriptwriter: Koutaiba Al Janabi

Cinematographer: Koutaiba Al Janabi

Editor: Francesco Carvelli, Tigger White

Composer: Tom Donald

Cast (in alphabetical order): Attila Solymosy, Jasim Al Timimi, Rang Omar, Sadik Al Attar



### Iraqi Association Clients 01 January- 30 April 2011 London Boroughs

Borough	Total
Bexley	2
Havering	2
Bromley	3
Lewisham	3
Enfield	4
Southwark	5
Hackney	6
Richmond	6
Waltham Forest	6
Harrow	7
Sutton	7
Haringey	7
Barnet	8
Croydon	8
Redbridge	8
Hillingdon	8
Newham	9
Barking & Dagenham	11
Islington	11
Tower Hamlets	12
Hounslow	16
Merton	19
Lambeth	19
Kingston upon Thames	23
Wandsworth	29
Camden	33
Brent	38
Kensington & Chelsea	56
City of Westminster	69
Ealing	102
Hammersmith & Fulham	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>653</b>

### Out of London Clients

Harlow	1
Holland	4
Southampton	7
Glasgow	7
Swansea	8
NE England	8
Liverpool	9
Iuton	13
Scotland	14
Manchester	16
leeds	18
sheffield	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

### Data of Iraqi Association Daily Client Service Categories Period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Gender	Age	Immigration	Welfare	Housing	Health	Employment	Education	General	Volunteers	
Female	0-15	7	8	1	2	2	4	11	6	
Male	0-15	4	3	2	0	1	2	7	1	
		11	11	3	2	3	6	18	7	61
Female	16-21	5	7	1	2	2	4	9	0	
Male	16-21	4	3	2	0	1	2	7	0	
		9	10	3	2	3	6	16	0	49
Female	22-49	42	47	17	11	1	8	27	0	
Male	22-49	89	66	30	10	8	6	61	0	
		131	113	47	21	9	14	88	0	423
Female	50-69	11	21	12	11	0	2	24	0	
Male	50-69	22	25	7	13	1	3	45	0	
		33	46	19	24	1	5	69	0	197
Female	70+	3	5	1	3	0	0	2	0	
Male	70+	1	8	3	4	0	1	16	0	
		4	13	4	7	0	1	18	0	47
										<b>Total</b>
										<b>777</b>

Would you like to raise money for IraqChild in your school?



Fundraising is an excellent way to build knowledge, raise awareness and encourage children and young people to support others. It can also be great fun! Contact us info@iraqiassociation.org