

English Supplement

Al-Muntada

of the Iraqi Association

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IRAQI ASSOCIATION

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We make a huge difference

The charity industry has changed a great deal over the years. The "charity industry" is big business — far more than the £7 billion raised in individual donations. Billions are raised in corporate sponsorship and grants handed to charities by the government. Some of the biggest get about half their income from the Treasury. And almost 600,000 staff are employed. Few are aware that there are over 169,000 registered charities in the UK. And that over half - 56% - have an annual income of less than £10,000. The charity sector has never been more polarised.

In this country, many charities spend big money either trying to persuade government to do things or trying to persuade public to change their ways. Health charities want smoking bans. Animal charities want hunting bans. Children's charities want laws to stop smacking.

Most charities are small. They often result from a few volunteers deciding they could make a difference. And they do. They help a vast number of the most vulnerable people. What they are not very good at is raising money. They don't get grants from the government, they can't afford to advertise and invest into fundraising, and they don't have marketing budgets. Every penny is spent on doing what they were set up to do. For example, our charity is helping thousands of people every year, and most are vulnerable people from young to elderly and frail. We assist them to settle and integrate and encourage them to realise their potential and become more independent.

On average, we are engaged with seven regular weekly volunteers, they come from different backgrounds and age groups. We assist them to gain confidence and provide

them with guidance and skill improvement; equally, they provide us with vital source of community support.

The conflict in Iraq often leads to unfortunate and tragic news. The terror and sadism affects our people here directly. Many Iraqis have lost family members or relatives and friends in Iraq. We reach those people and ensure that their anger and emotion are heard.

We serve the most deprived, socially excluded and vulnerable members of people. We operate at the heart of the community and understand the ethos, culture and individual needs of the people we work for.

How much did all this cost? The total operating budget for the financial year 2006/07 was £95,000. That is rather less than the salary of one senior British charity director. This doesn't mean that big charities that raise and spend tens of millions of pounds do not provide meet the needs of their users. But the gulf in the sector is widening. While a handful of super-charities continue to flourish, thousands of smaller organisations struggle simply to survive.

The gap between the biggest earners at the top and the huge concentration of smaller groups at the bottom is widening every year. Nearly 90% of UK not-for-profit organisations generate less than 8% of the sector's income. And evidence suggests this trend will continue.

The increasing focus by funders and the government on medium and large charities to deliver public services will force many small charities and community groups out of business. Recently, the Big Lottery Fund awarded one mainstream refugee agency grants of over £5.6million pounds. Well, it's



obvious that the knock on effect on many community groups will be devastating, particularly frontline refugee groups, those who provide one-to-one services. This trend is pushed by huge investment into fundraising budget and glossy case studies which smaller groups cannot afford. It is also significantly reduces the level of small groups' funding as more funders adopts such approach. The approach is driven by 'image and name' instead of services and changing beneficiaries' lives.

Medium and large charities are continuing to thrive, while smaller groups don't have the capacity to run marketing or fundraising campaigns that generate income from other sources.

As a small charity, Iraqi Association like

other tiny organisations has one thing in common: a struggle to raise enough money to keep going. We raise the money to make a difference to the lives of more than 6000 people annually.

Against this background, BLF, and the government and other grant makers must consider fair and balanced process when it comes to decision making. Equally, the Institute of Fundraising must also tackle the issue of shortage of fundraisers among minority ethnic and refugee groups. Moreover, funding should increasingly be directed to frontline groups core budget, recognising small community groups' potential will assist further the successful integration process of the communities which they serve.

Desperate Humanitarian Situation of Displaced Iraqis

Every month thousands of Iraqis joins the exodus of displaced and uprooted Tsunami of human wave, only to face the unknown future. Iraq's neighbouring countries have imposed visas and other restriction to deter the fleeing people. In a press release by IA.

Iraqi Association has been contacted by a group of 12 Iraqis, men and women, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur to seek safety in September and October, who have been threatened the Malaysian authority with removal to Baghdad. Beside that, they were systematically beaten up, insulted and humiliated by the Malaysian guards. We appeal to the authority in Kuala Lumpur not to return them to Baghdad and treat them in a humane way.

Many Iraqis use a dangerous bus rout across the bandit-ridden desert to reach Jordan and Syria, thinking that they will find protection. The desperate humanitarian situation of displaced Iraqis, including the refugees and those who remain within Iraq, has been largely ignored by the world and the media.

Yes, I am pleased to help Iraqi Children.

Please return to: Iraqi Association Freepost NAT21599 London W6 9BR

I would like to make a donation of: £15 £30 £50 £75 £150 £500 other amount £ _____

Thank you for your generosity

Name:
Address:
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.....
Post Code:
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Method of payment

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to: 'IraqChild'

Please debit my credit card/debit card (please tick the appropriate box)

Visa MasterCard Switch CAF Card

Card No. []

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Gift Aid it

Gift Aid Declaration: Gift Aid enables us to reclaim tax on all donations from UK tax payers. Please tick box below, I want Iraqi Association to reclaim tax on all donation I make on or after 6 April 2000*

* To be eligible for Gift Aid, you must pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the UK equal to, or more than, the amount that we will reclaim on your donation.

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Dave Anderson MP -Raises IraqChild appeal in the Commons



On Wednesday 25.07.2007 David Anderson Member of Parliament raised an early day motion in the commons, appealing for the children of Baghdad.

“That this House fully supports the IraqChild appeal launched by the UK-based Iraqi Association to raise £250,000 for emergency protection for children through the Andalus

Medical Clinic in Baghdad; notes that children in Baghdad will suffer disproportionately this summer through sweltering heat, electricity shortages and lack of air conditioning in addition to the violence and sectarian strife which has led to the displacement of thousands of children and many orphans having to fend for themselves; further notes that terrorists are using children as decoys for sadistic killings, that one in eight Iraqi children died of disease or violence before reaching their fifth birthday in 2005, and that there are worryingly high levels of malnourishment; believes that this non-sectarian project, which was developed through a lengthy consultation process with concerned medical

personnel in Baghdad and local non-governmental organizations, is credible; points out that, for example, £22 can buy a child’s clothing pack, £48 can treat a child for diarrhea and ear infection, £60 can pay for a qualified nurse to care for 10 children every week, £650 can pay for a medical doctor for a month to visit 10 families with children every week, and £1,580 can maintain running a children’s clinic for a month for eight children everyday; and urges widespread moral and material assistance for this vital humanitarian initiative.”

It refers to the appeal for the children of Baghdad, where the Iraqi Association in Britain is launching an appeal to raise £250,000 to develop a clinic in Baghdad to help with the one in eight children who will die this summer.

“I would ask that this be debated at the next sitting of the House, but there will not be a sitting over the summer and thousands of children will die. Can the Minister ensure that this motion gets to the relevant Departments, to see whether they can help to pay?”

Ms Harman: I thank my honourable Friend for bringing the appeal to my attention. I know that he has worked alongside the trade union movement in Iraq and he raises another very good cause, which I will bring to the attention of my ministerial colleagues.

Iraq’s refugee crisis unfolds amid global apathy

The international community is failing to address adequately Iraq’s spiralling refugee crisis leaving the main host countries of Syria and Jordan shouldering too much of the responsibility, Amnesty International said in a report published on 24 September 07. As a result, these two countries are now tightening border controls, and so cutting off the main escape routes for people fleeing from sectarian and other violence in Iraq.

“The desperate humanitarian situation of displaced Iraqis, including the refugees and those who remain within Iraq, has been largely ignored by the world,” said Malcolm Smart of Amnesty International. At least four million Iraqis are now displaced and their numbers continue to rise at an estimated rate of 2,000 people per day, making this the world’s fastest growing displacement crisis. Syria now hosts 1.4 million Iraqi refugees and Jordan an estimated 500,000 or more, while 2.2 million people are displaced but still remain within Iraq itself.

“We are very concerned that the new visa requirements being introduced by Syria and Jordan will prevent Iraqis receiving the protection they need.

We urge both governments to keep their borders open to those fleeing for their lives,” said Malcolm Smart.

Amnesty International is also calling for on-going assistance from the international community to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as national and international humanitarian organizations to enable them to continue to provide and expand their current work to protect and assist Iraqis in need.

The report criticises the slow pace of resettlement of those considered most vulnerable among the Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, including victims of torture and other grave abuses. It notes that between 2003 and 2006, the number of Iraqi refugees resettled in third countries fell by more than a half despite rising political violence. According to UNHCR, 1,425 Iraqi refugees were resettled in third countries in 2003 but only 404 in 2006.

The international community must accept a shared responsibility by resettling Iraqis from Jordan and Syria, particularly the most vulnerable, in a more expedient manner with a view to increasing the overall resettlement quotas in third countries.

When you live in a world of war...

Colette’s Shakib (12 year old) class at school was given a task in their English class to write a poem about ‘Dreams’. Most of her class wrote about romantic dreams but Colette wrote her poem about the dreams of an Iraqi girl in Baghdad and her dreams of peace.

Dreams

I used to dream, now no more,
I wouldn’t if I were you,
For a dream is a dream and only a dream,
And dreams just don’t come true.

I dreamt there was peace and happiness,
I dreamt I could just fly away,
I dreamt that bombs did seldom drop,
And the war belonged to yesterday.

My dreams used to see me through,
But now they see me cry,
Images of home haunt my night,
And I never quite understand why.

The dreams sometimes turn to nightmares,
They are nothing I can avoid,
Images of hundreds of army planes,
And my city being destroyed.

Deep down I can still dream,
If you want to hear the truth,
For I lie to myself, pretend that I don’t,
But tell me do you see the use?

Dreams of flowers and rainbows,
And a piercing sky of blue,
Just how do you stop this enemy,
When these dreams are part of you?

Why do all dreams of escaping,
Seem like millions of dreams I’ve had?
Why has my old house gone now,
Back in the streets of Baghdad?

I want to escape from this world,
For there to be an open door,
I guess it’s hard to dream,
When you live in a world of war.

I say that all hope is gone now,
But is that really true?
Moments feel like hours,
Will my dreams see me through?

By Colette Shakib, October 2007

IRAQI ASSOCIATION (IA)



The Iraqi Association is a non-profit organisation that exists to enable Iraqis to settle and integrate in this country with rights to express their cultural identities. Our work aimed at Iraqis, by providing volunteerism, advice, public health support, counselling, training, employment guidance, information

services, and organising cultural events. It is also our mission to raise awareness about relevant events in Iraq and the integration process in this country.”

Our Aims and Methods:

We provide the following services to

our clients regardless of their race, ethnic origin, language, and gender, religious or political background.

- Face-to-face support session
- Group empowerment session
- Workshop advice session
- Training session
- Outreach work
- Client-led information

Made in Baghdad



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No Childhood But Only Adulthood

Together we can change this. Support IraqChild Appeal.

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Charity No. 1101109

The Exodus of Pain Continues

One out of every seven Iraqis have been forced to flee their homes. If Iraq continues this descent, the refugee tide could turn into a regional tsunami, with potentially convulsive extreme political consequences. The number of Iraq's non-Muslim religious minorities, such as Christians and people belonging to the Sabean/Mandaean community, continues to be disproportionately high among the refugee population. Over the past 18 months, non-Muslim religious communities have felt themselves particularly vulnerable in Iraq. They have been caught in the sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shia but have been unable to obtain adequate protection from Iraqi government. Furthermore, over 830 assassinations have been documented among Iraq's professionals, 830 university academics and doctors, 210 lawyers and judges, 243 journalists and media workers. The reported incidents are only the tip of the iceberg, many cases go unreported. Statistics from the US-based Brookings Institute reveal that some 40 per cent of Iraq's professional class has fled abroad.

The increasingly desperate humanitarian situation of Iraqis who have been displaced inside and outside their country has been largely ignored by the rest of the world and media attention, including states whose involvement in Iraq has played a part



in creating the situation from which millions of people have fled. Governments have paid lip-service to the needs of the Iraqi displaced, but real and on-going commitment to support them has not emerged to anything like the extent necessary to address this dire and deepening crisis.

As of September this year, an estimated 4.2 million Iraqis have been uprooted from their homes, with the monthly rate of displacement climbing to over 60,000 people compared to 50,000 previously, according to UNHCR and the Iraqi Red Crescent. As a result of sectarian violence the number of internally displaced persons has risen dramatically, reaching 2 million people. Many are barely surviving in makeshift camps, inaccessible to aid workers for security reasons. Recent drastic actions by Syrian and Jordanian government have added more misery on people who have already suffered enough. According to the U.N. statistics, about 1.5 million Iraqi refugees are in Syria, 750,000 in Jordan, 150,000 in Egypt, 50,000 in Iran and 20,000 in Turkey.

Globally Iraqis made some 19,800 asylum claims during the first six months of this year, an increase of 45 percent compared to the last six months of 2006, when 13,600 applications were received. Iraqis were the top nationality applying for asylum in industrialized countries in the first half of 2007. Almost half of all Iraqi applications (some 9,300), were submitted in Sweden. The large Iraqi community in that country and its strong social network might account for the high number of Iraqi asylum seekers there. Greece registered some 3,500 asylum claims by Iraqis in the first half of this year, while Spain and Germany recorded 1,500 and 820 applications respectively. By the end of August, UNHCR had referred the cases of 13,696 Iraqi refugees to resettlement countries for consideration – 10,111 to the United States and



3,586 others to Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Brazil. So far, less than one thousand people have left for life in a third country. UNHCR will continue to urge the resettlement countries to make rapid decisions and facilitate the departure of those most in need, many of whom are urgent medical cases, female-headed households and torture victims. Resettlement, however, remains an option for only a few of the most vulnerable Iraqis. UNHCR aims at to provide up to 20,000 Iraqi resettlement cases to other third countries this year.

Many Iraqis are seeking sanctuary in Sweden, between January and August this year, Sweden took in 12,259 Iraqis fleeing their country. It expects 20,000 for all of 2007. By contrast, in the same January-August period, the United States admitted only 685 refugees, according to the US State Department figures. The number details attracts attention, in January this year, Sweden admitted 1,500 Iraqis, compared to 15 that entered the United States. In April 2007, the respective numbers were 1,421 and 1; in May, 1,367 and 1; and in August 1,469 and 529. True, the Iraqis in Sweden are asylum-seekers, whereas those reaching the US have refugee status conferred by the UNHCR. But the numbers representing the bulk of the Iraqis getting into a country of nine million and another of 300 million — are no less of an indictment for that.

The Bush administration has promised to resettle 7,000 Iraqi refugees in the US by September. But by the end of September, only 1,135 have been admitted.

Bush's failure to do more for Iraqi refugees, including thousands who put their lives at risk for the U.S., stands out for its moral bankruptcy. In the 1990s, President Clinton twice saved vulnerable Iraqi refugees with the stroke of a pen, rescuing more than 6,600 U.S.-allied Kurds under attack by Saddam Hussein in northern Iraq and flying them to Guam, where they were granted asylum, and airlifting more than 4,000 Kosovars to Ft. Dix, N.J., for resettlement in this country. Sadly these is no such rescue operation is even under discussion today.

Many of the Iraqi refugees are caught in an ongoing nightmare. Even those who have been shot at or kidnapped cannot request asylum in Baghdad. They must make it to another country — if they can — before they can petition the U.N. for help, the first step in the process. Yet Iraq's overwhelmed neighbours, Jordan and Syria, are doing their best to keep new refugees out. And Iraqis who are living in limbo in many countries are now overstaying their temporary visas, wondering whether to go underground or return to Iraq. This

crisis is the moral responsibility of all industrial countries — walking away will assist people-traffickers, criminals and terrorism. The industry of people-traffickers flourishes at the expense of Iraqi refugee crisis. It is time to ease the need. Immediate following action must be considered to ease the crisis. The Governments of Jordan and Syria must allow unrestricted entry to Iraqis in need of international protection, exempting them from visa requirements.

The international community must provide financial, technical and in-kind bilateral assistance to Jordan, Syria, to provide services to benefit Iraqi refugees

Resettle Iraqis through UNHCR third countries programme, priority must be given to

vulnerable, particularly children and elderly. This should go far beyond token numbers and should constitute a significant part of the solution to the current crisis. Coupled with the faster processing arrangements to ensure protection is provided as quickly as possible.

UNHCR must consider adequate package of resettlement programme in the safe Kurdish area of Iraq.

Other immediate measure is that the United States must significantly expand the number of Iraqi refugees that it accepts into the country.

Governments and media crudely evaluate human suffering in Iraq in terms of the number killed. A broader and better barometer would include those who have escaped death only by fleeing their homes, their jobs and their country to go and live destitute and unwanted. The US administration has 18 benchmarks to measure progress in Iraq but the return of four million people to their homes is not among them.



This year the United States government promised to resettle 7000 Iraqi refugees, but by the end of September, only 1,135 have been admitted.