



The National Association of British Arabs

Rt Hon Danian Green MP
Minister for Immigration,
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Dear Mr Green

Today I have learnt from (Iraqi Association press release 08.06.2010 and the Guardian newspaper 03.06.2010) about the collaboration of UKBA and Officials from the Iraqi Interior Ministry, to screen Iraqis here in order to deport them.

I am deeply concerned about this development, this irrational decision by UKBA to collaborate and check papers of Iraqis who sought asylum here is wrong. I am not blaming individual deportation officers but lack of accountability and the utter and ill-conceived method to work with Interior Iraqi Minister in order to expel asylum seekers. The same ministry as the Human Rights Watch is calling all its personnel to be prosecuted for murder and kidnapping in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq.

The point which I want to raise here is that the use of this type of degrading and inhumane method, to expel those who sought asylum. It will undoubtedly contravene 1951 UN Convention, and undermines our values and freedom. Although Iraq is becoming yesterday's story in Britain, but the agony and pain of its people is continuing.

On 8th June, UNHCR issued a statement, the extract says *(UNHCR understands that four governments – the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK – are arranging an enforced removal of Iraqi citizens to Baghdad, Iraq later this week. We have not received confirmed information of the number and profile of those individuals and whether some have requested protection Our position and advice to governments is that Iraqi asylum applicants originating from Iraq's governorates of Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah-al-Din, as well as from Kirkuk province, should continue to benefit from international protection in the form of refugee status under the 1951 Refugee Convention or another form of protection depending on the circumstances of the case. Our position reflects the volatile security situation and the still high level of prevailing violence, security incidents, and human rights violations taking place in these parts of Iraq. UNHCR considers that serious – including indiscriminate – threats to life, physical integrity or freedom resulting from violence or events seriously disturbing public order are valid reasons for international protection.)*

I am appealing to you to reconsider this issue and review the process to meet reasonable standards of dignity and respect, allowing it to continue, will violate all basic human values.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Dr Ismail Jalili, FRCS, FRCOphth
President**