

Press Release

Thursday, 20 November 2008

18th November 2008

Press Release:

Two Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers forcibly deported

Two Iraqi asylum seekers have been forcibly deported today and sent back to the Kurdistan region of Northern Iraq. Kawa Ahmed and Are Ali were driven from Dover detention centre and taken to Heathrow where they are being flown to Iraq, via Jordan, on Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Dashty Jamal from the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees says:

“I spoke to Kawa as they were taking him onto the plane. He was crying. He said they had taken him by force. His life was threatened in Iraq so he came to the UK. He is now being sent back to the very people who he came to the UK to escape from!

This is a very sad case but one that is becoming increasingly common as the Home Office continues its inhumane, immoral policy of risking good people’s lives by sending them back to Iraq, a country which has become more dangerous since the war.”

Michelle, Kawa Ahmed’s wife, said:

“We have been living together for a year and seven months. Now our love and our life together have been broken.”

Kawa Ahmed had been living in Wolverhampton for five years since he left Iraq to flee persecution and death threats from political parties. His asylum claim was rejected by the Home Office which classes Kurdistan as a safe area.

He will be received in Kurdistan by the same political party whose persecution he left Iraq to escape.

We ask all human rights organisations to support our campaign against forcible deportations to Iraq. The UK Government has a responsibility to respect the human rights of Iraqis and should not be sending them back to a war zone.

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

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