



Jiyan Foundation
for Human Rights

Annual
Report

2013/14

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Welcome.

For the past decade, the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights has been assisting thousands of survivors of human rights violations in Iraq, defending their dignity and protecting their fundamental freedoms.

Starting with the city of Kirkuk, our efforts have focused on the Kurdish region of Iraq – a small multiethnic area in the world that survived genocidal attacks and now provides a safe haven for more than a million refugees.

In the Crosshairs

This landlocked region is surrounded by an increasingly autocratic Turkish government, an oppressive Iranian theocracy, an Iraqi political system that has fuelled massive sectarian violence, and a murderous Syrian dictatorship waging war on its own citizens.

In between, and against all odds, Kurdistan-Iraq has emerged as one of the most democratic and pluralistic societies in the entire Middle East. More than 120 of our staff have been working tirelessly to contribute towards these ends.

Enemy at the Gates

With the advance of the so-called Islamic State (IS), Kurdish civil society has also emerged as a last line of defense against an extremist group that has subjected millions of people in Syria and Iraq to a reign of tyranny. The Jiyan Foundation currently assists hundreds of families that have survived atrocities committed by IS terrorists, and we are proud to help the people of Kurdistan in their ongoing resistance against this existential threat.

International Solidarity

During the past two years, a growing number of public and private donors have supported our struggle for human rights in Iraq. If you are interested in learning more about getting involved in our endeavor, we invite you to visit our website

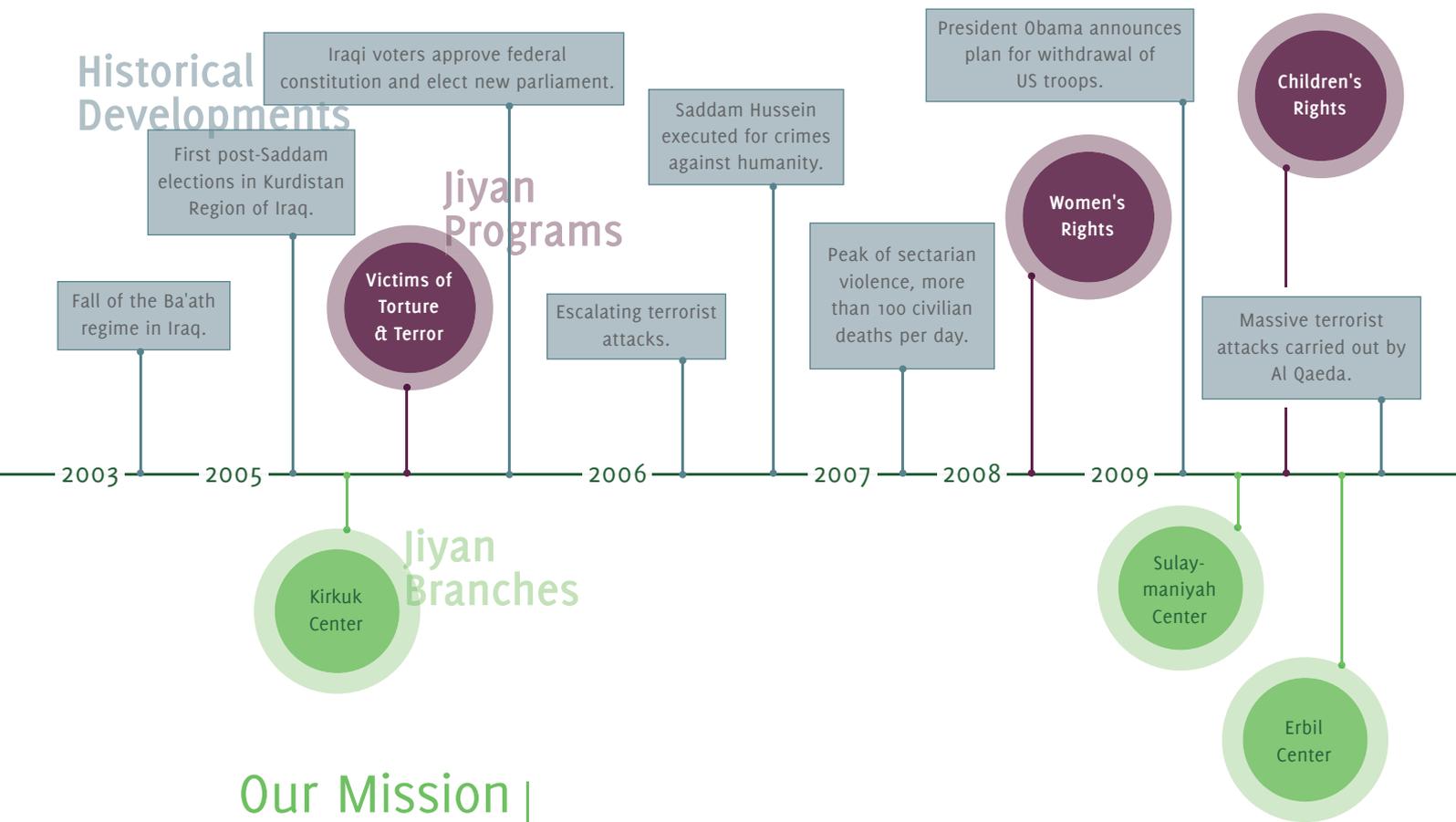
www.jiyan-foundation.org.



Salah Ahmad • President



Michael Lehmann • Vice President



Our Mission

The Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights assists victims of violence and persecution in Iraq. We strive for a democratic society where the dignity of the human person is protected, where adults and children enjoy the right to life and liberty, and where citizens are free from torture and terror.

Our Values

The core values guiding our work are expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We believe in the inherent dignity of the human person and seek to promote respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms laid down in the Universal Declaration. We help survivors of human rights abuses regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or spiritual beliefs.

Our History

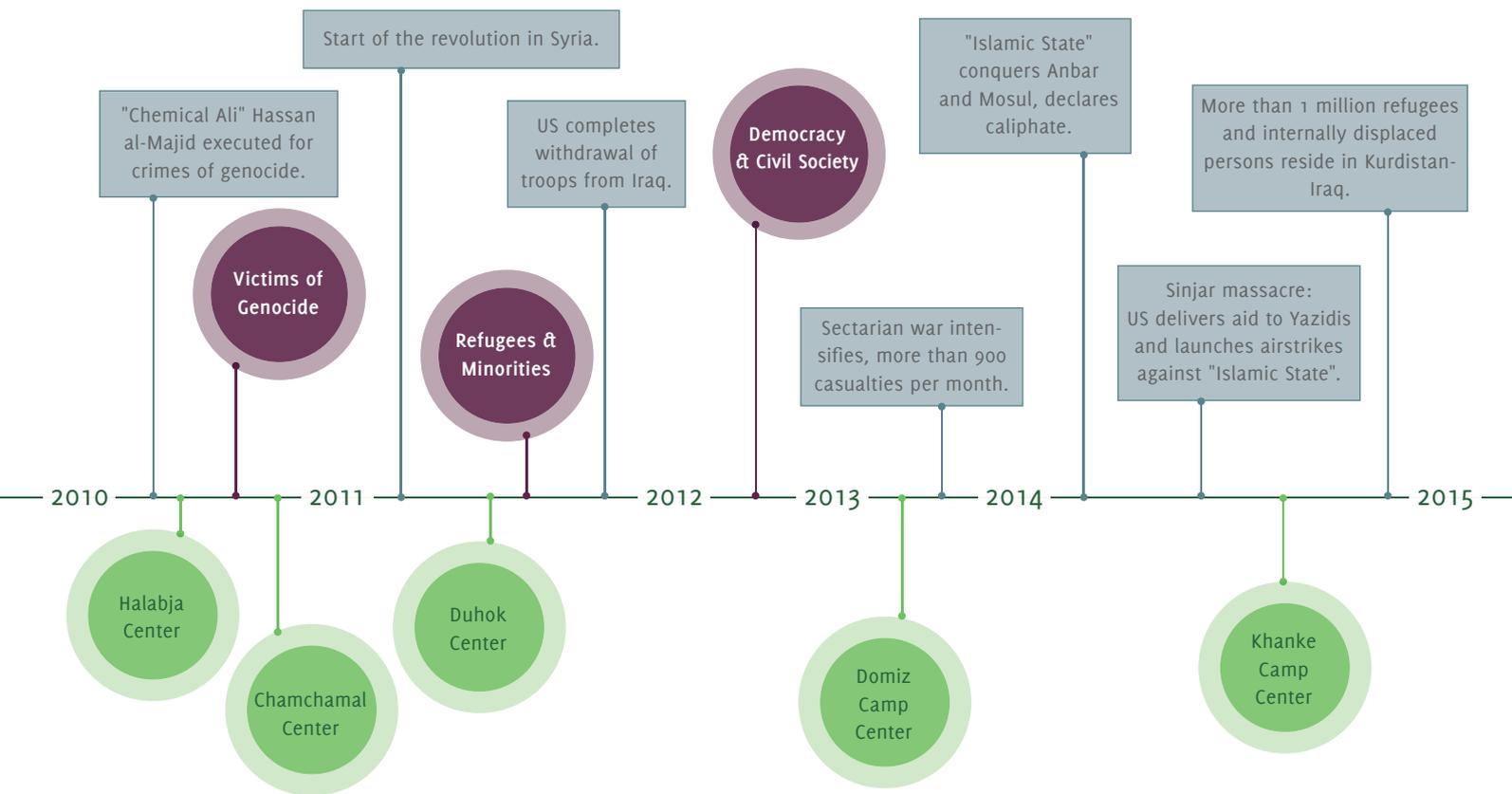
In 2005, we started our activities in the multiethnic city of Kirkuk, where we opened the first rehabilitation center for victims of torture in Iraq. Since then, we have established several

branches throughout Kurdistan-Iraq where more than 13,000 traumatized men, women and children have received help.

Our Work

The Jiyan Foundation promotes the physical rehabilitation, mental well-being and social reintegration of victims and their family members by providing them with free-of-charge medical treatment, psychotherapeutic support and socio-legal counseling. In addition, we seek to protect survivors of past human rights abuses and prevent future acts of violence through political advocacy, human rights education and public awareness-raising programs.

Jîyan (jî:an) is the Kurdish word for life. Our logo is a calligraphic artwork spelling out the name of our organization in Arabic and Kurdish. It was designed by a torture survivor from Iraq who spent several years of his life in the infamous Abu Ghraib prison.



Our Beneficiaries

Each year, the Jiyan Foundation assists more than 2000 victims of human rights violations. On average, 50% of those who seek our help are female adults, while 30% are children and adolescents. The majority of our clients are Kurds, followed by Arabs, Turkmens, and Assyrians.

Our Team

The mission of the Jiyan Foundation is carried out by a young team of multilingual professionals. Our staff in Iraq includes medical doctors, psychotherapists and community health workers as well as pedagogues, lawyers, and project managers.

Our Partners

Since its inception, the Jiyan Foundation has cooperated very closely with the Berlin Center for Torture Victims in Germany. In Iraq, our team coordinates with a wide range of non-governmental organizations as well as health institutions and governmental agencies.





Samsam Ahmed: "Torture is destruction of life's beauty"

Justice for Victims of Torture

Victims of gross human rights violations have special rights accorded to them in order to claim justice for the harm they have suffered. These victims' rights are made up of two parts, namely a right to a remedy and a right to reparations.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Articles 1, 3, 5 • Universal Declaration of Human Rights

According to the United Nations Resolution concerning the *Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation*, states have an obligation to prevent gross violations of international human rights law. They have the duty to investigate these violations promptly and thoroughly, to prosecute and punish perpetrators of crimes, and to provide effective remedies to victims who individually or collectively suffered harm – including physical or mental injury and emotional suffering.

Treatment of Victims

Moreover, states are obliged to treat victims with "humanity and respect for their dignity", to ensure their "safety, physical and psychological well-being and privacy", and to avoid re-traumatization of those who have suffered violence and trauma.

The Government of Iraq has largely neglected its duty to prevent, prosecute and protect, and has failed to launch a national program for reparation. With support from the European Union and

“ I am here because I have a goal to achieve and I have to fight to get there, and this place protects us. ”

Client of the Jiyan Foundation

the German Foreign Office, the Jiyan Foundation has established a network of safe spaces where an interdisciplinary team assists traumatized victims in voicing their needs, reasserting their dignity and claiming their rights.

Remedies and Reparations

These international rights include equal access to justice and adequate reparation for harm suffered. Reparation encompasses five elements: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. While the Jiyan Foundation focuses on rehabilitation, especially medical and psychological care as well as social and legal services, we also seek to contribute to a wide range of other forms of reparation that victims are entitled to.

Expanding our Scope

In 2014, we joined forces with the Bahjat al-Fuad Rehabilitation Centre in Basra to strengthen nationwide services for torture survivors. As part of a three-year program funded by EuropeAid, we collaborate with the Berlin Center for Torture Victims and Medica Afghanistan to combat torture, inhuman treatment and impunity in Iraq and Afghanistan.

REPARATIONS THAT THE JIYAN FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES TO

Restitution | restoration of liberty • enjoyment of human rights

Compensation | assisting victims in claiming costs for legal, medical, psychological and social services

Rehabilitation | direct medical and psychological care as well as legal and social services

Satisfaction | verification of historical facts • public disclosure of truth • search for the disappeared • commemorations and tributes to victims

Non-Repetition | providing human rights law education to all sectors of society • promoting the observance of international ethical standards by law enforcement, media, medical, psychological, and social service personnel



Campaign against torture and impunity: "Silence Helps the Torturers"



Commemoration of the end of the Saddam regime (9 April 2014)

Supporting Victims of Genocide

More than a decade after the fall of the Saddam regime and a quarter-century after the genocidal campaign against the Kurdish people, survivors of atrocities are still waiting for compensation.

Leyla was 51 years of age when the bombers appeared in the sky over her hometown of Halabja. As the chemical warheads came down, children were crying and screaming, scared to death by the sounds of mortars and jets. Leyla and her family sought protection in a building where people desperately tried to cover their faces with wet blankets. To no avail – one by one, the bodies started to fall, and Leyla watched her husband suffocate.

She fell unconscious and woke up in a hospital in Iran. Three of her

daughters were with her, but both of her sons were missing. When she returned to Halabja, the streets were filled with the smell of dead bodies and the houses were left in ruins. She could not find her missing sons and had to start working to feed her remaining children.

Today, more than 25 years later, Leyla is still waiting for her sons to come home and rushes to the door as soon as someone knocks. But the only thing she finds is painful memories and wounds that never healed.





Our psychotherapists initially struggled with the elderly woman, who had never heard of psychotherapy before and was skeptical about the concept. However, she enjoyed talking freely without being interrupted and soon gained trust in our treatment.

We were able to reduce her feelings of anxiety by teaching her relaxation exercises. She transformed some of her guilt into positive thoughts and particularly appreciates group therapy to share her emotions and experiences. Since Leyla is good at knitting, we have encouraged her to further pursue this hobby, which seems to give her some satisfaction in life.

Ethnic Cleansing

The Halabja chemical attacks, which killed an estimated 5000 civilians and left another 10,000 permanently injured, scarred and blinded, were the culmination of the so-called Anfal Campaign carried out by the Ba'athist regime – an extermination campaign directed against Kurds and other minorities that involved internment camps, mass shootings, aerial bombardment, and the systematic destruction of villages.

Until this day, the Jiyān Foundation is the only organization in Iraq offering comprehensive medical and psychotherapeutic services to Anfal survivors. Generous support from the German Foreign Office has allowed us to establish a rehabilitation center for victims of chemical attacks in Halabja, and to launch several mobile teams reaching



out to traumatized families living in impoverished rural areas.

Compensation

Leyla, now 77 years of age, is still caught in a world of trauma and pain, whereas most of the perpetrators and enablers of the Anfal campaign have walked free. And although the Supreme Criminal Tribunal and the Supreme Court of Iraq – as well as several Western parliaments, including those of Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom – have recognized these crimes as acts of genocide, Leyla has never received any compensation for the harm she suffered.

In 2015, the Jiyān Foundation will continue to support Anfal survivors by staging public information events disclosing the truth about a largely forgotten historical episode, and by publishing "voices of survivors" allowing victims to break through the silence. By means of a newly formed legal advocacy team, we will increase our efforts to assist local communities in their quest for redress, and to draw global attention to a genocide that holds lessons for the prevention of crimes against humanity committed elsewhere.

Left: annual commemoration of the chemical attacks on Halabja (16 March 2014)

Right: residents of Halabja expressing solidarity with victims of chemical attacks in Syria

VOICES | CELEBRATION OF THE END OF SADDAM REGIME, 9 APRIL 2014

"I'm very grateful. Organizations such as the Jiyān Foundation may not provide money or provide for a living, but they are doing very much to ease some of our pains." – *Mawlood*

"It probably didn't cost much money to organize this event, but I never felt happier." – *Fuad*

"When I first came to this center, I had no motivation for staying alive. After meeting you, life is getting back to me." – *Galawezh*



Protecting Minorities and Refugees

Minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable population groups and prone to human rights violations. Their protection and rehabilitation has become more important than ever.

Assisting Syrian Refugees

Since the beginning of the war, an estimated three million Syrians have been forced to flee their country. More than 200,000 of them have sought refuge in Kurdistan-Iraq.

Many of these refugees have experienced traumatic events. Some of them have witnessed atrocities and lost their relatives due to acts of war. Others have suffered detention, in-

human treatment and torture at the hands of government forces or Islamist militias. All of them have lost their homes and livelihood.

With support from Misereor, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau, the Jiyan Foundation has been able to assist more than 8000 traumatized Syrian refugees in Iraq. Our branches in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah



provide individuals and families with free medical and psychosocial services. Mobile teams reach out to refugees in the camps Domiz and Arbat.

Defending Pluralism

Iraq is home to numerous ethnic and religious minorities – including Armenian, Assyrian, Chaldean and Syriac Christians, as well as Mandaeans, Shabaks, and Yazidis. For several years now, central Iraq has been experiencing alarming levels of extremist violence directed against vulnerable communities.

Yet, the advance of the so-called Islamic State has caused persecution, displacement and murder on an unprecedented scale. After the seizure of Mosul, the terrorist group captured the town of Sinjar, partly massacred and entirely displaced its Yazidi population, leaving 10,000 Yazidi families trapped in the Sinjar mountains.

More than 1.2 million internally displaced Iraqis – including Shia and Sunni Muslims as well as Christians, Yazidis and Shabak – have fled to the Kurdish region of Iraq. They live in schools and mosques, unfinished buildings, parks and in overcrowded camps.

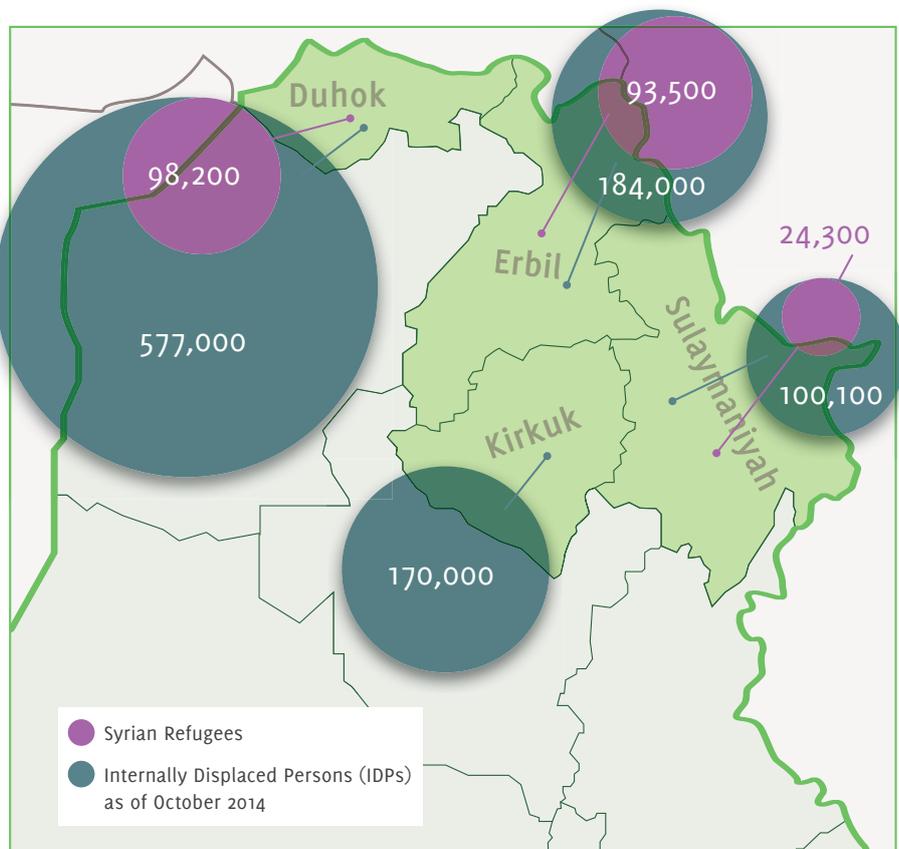
Thanks to the long-term support provided by the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and the Foundation Wings of Hope, we have been able to react to this crisis by offering medical and psychological care to traumatized families. Additional funding from the Lutheran World Federation, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNHCR has allowed us to extend our services to particularly vulnerable groups, including victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

With the help of Misereor, we engaged in emergency aid by distributing water, kerosene, food and hygiene kits to more than 5000 families in camps and informal settlements. Relief items were also flown to displaced Yazidis on Mount Sinjar.



“ When I chose to work for a human rights NGO, my ambition was to help people in the best possible way. The Jiyana Foundation has taught me how to do so and I am grateful for having this chance to serve humanity. ”

Rospin Noel Baito • Local Director Duhok





I Always Tell Them to Be Strong

The Jiyan Foundation has been running a program for women offering gender-specific treatment, socio-legal support and education since 2008. Although harmful practices and beliefs persist, we have witnessed a gradual improvement in women's rights.

As recent developments in Iraq confirm, the situation of women will stand or fall by virtue not only of legal frameworks, changes in societal norms or prosperity, but also based on the security situation. Terror and fear affect the entire population, but concern women to an even greater extent, mostly due to their economic dependence on male family members. Moreover, religious extremists tend to impose their agenda on the female body and make it the battlefield of their war.

Progress and Setbacks

At the same time, the Kurdish region of Iraq is more secure and less shaken by terrorist attacks and sectarian violence than Central and South Iraq. Accordingly, the status of women's rights has made more progress than in the rest of the country. Here, women are much more involved in politics and the Domestic Violence Act (2011) is, at least in theory, a reaction to the longtime demands for gender-specific protection.

“ Divorce has become both a blessing and a curse in our society. On the one hand, it is a precious good and great possibility to get away from a despotic and violent husband. On the other hand, the woman is likely to remain a victim: the victim of a society that regards divorced women as inferior, that will focus only on her failures and shortcomings and that will make her feel as if she was infected with a malicious virus.

During therapy we try to address family problems before the relationship is destroyed. But I still explain to my patients that under some circumstances divorce is the only option for a better life. If we want to build a better tomorrow for us and our daughters, we have to face the harsh reality of our society. So I always tell them to be strong.”

Women's therapist from Kirkuk

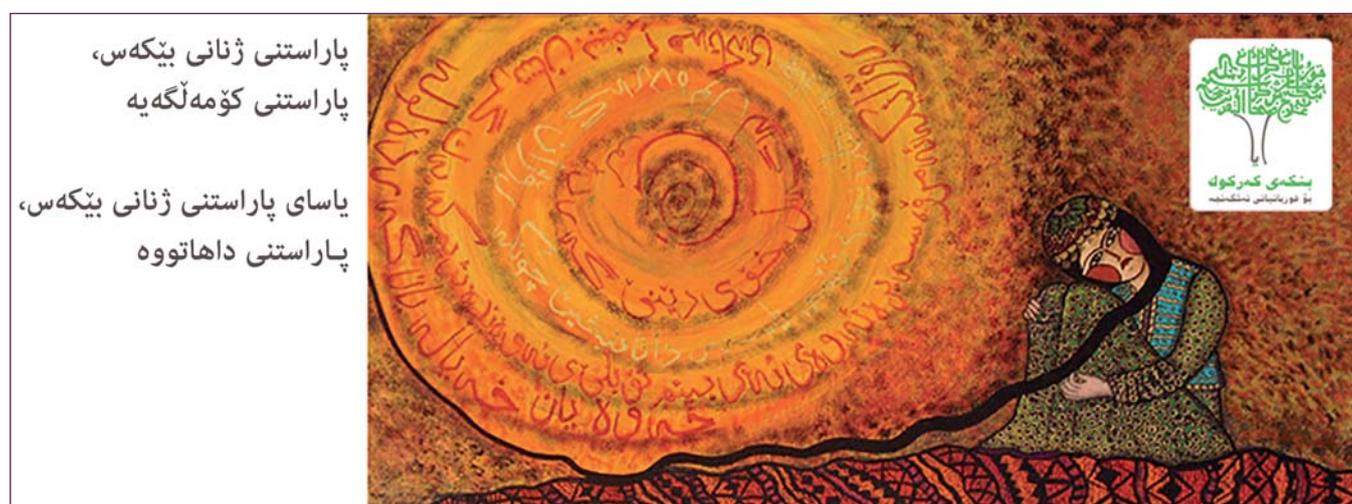
Treating the Damage

Women seeking help at our centers have various ethnic and religious backgrounds, come from different age groups, and are from economically stable and poor backgrounds. Yet, most of them report similar histories of violence and oppression, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and limitations of individual freedoms. All of them suffer from psychological disorders such as depression and anxiety or trauma.

Between 2013 and 2014, we were able to help more than 1700 female patients. We provided them not only with psychological treatment and medical services but additionally offered social assistance and seminars on their rights. A huge number of individual success stories confirm that our approach can indeed ease pain and lead to empowered and self-determined lives.

THE PLIGHT OF YAZIDI WOMEN

From the start, the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) has used a policy of gender-based and sexual violence. After capturing the town of Sinjar, IS terrorists sexually enslaved an estimated 5000 Yazidi women and girls. They have been abducted, raped, held captive in brothels, and sold in markets in Mosul and Raqqa. Some of them were able to escape and fled to the safe Kurdish region. Yet they are deeply traumatized, suicidal or physically impaired. Given the traditional codes of honor in Iraq, these returning women and girls are at risk of being rejected both by their families and society. With the support of private donors, the Jiyar Foundation has launched a program that will promote their rehabilitation and social reintegration.



Campaign for the protection of single and divorced women in Kurdistan



I Want to Go Back Home

Amir, Faizah and Nebez are three out of hundreds of child patients. They are among the most vulnerable survivors of violence and need a stable and healing environment.

Most of our child patients have experienced the same things as our adult clients: flight and displacement, violence, abuse, persecution, terror and loss. Yet their ability to cope with such traumatic events is much more limited and their further development is at risk. In our centers, we try to make them feel safe again. They can engage in sand and play therapy, are encouraged to express their feelings, and

receive psychotherapy. We also counsel families and raise parents' awareness of their children's needs.

Amir (14), from Tikrit

Amir is an Arab boy from Tikrit. When the IS terror group captured his family, they threatened his father: "Your son must join us or we will kill your family!" Amir obeyed in order



to protect his loved ones. The terrorists soon made him drive a car to a mosque near Kirkuk city. The boy had never driven a car before. After passing the first checkpoint he caused a traffic accident and Kurdish security forces arrested him. Amir had unwittingly been carrying a car bomb under his seat. They had intended to make him a suicide bomber. Our team met him in the juvenile prison of Kirkuk. He has not heard from his family since and is awaiting the judge's verdict. Our staff decided to monitor his situation and to offer legal counseling.

Faizah (12), from Hasaka in Syria

Faizah was born into a poor Sunni Muslim family in Baghdad. Her father used to work as a taxi driver but was badly injured when an armed man tried to steal his car. As a result of his disability, he opened a mobile phone shop but it was blown up by a bomb explosion. Close relatives and friends were killed. The family then decided to migrate to Syria where Faizah experienced a happy childhood.

When the Syrian civil war broke out, her family fled back to Baghdad where they were exposed to daily explosions, fear and terror. That is why they came to Sulaymaniyah. Faizah told our staff that all the dead people she saw still horrify her. She cannot stop thinking about her home and her friends in Syria. She also suffers from hepatitis and her body is very fragile and weak. We started to treat her physical problems but also tried to restore some of her lost childhood and bought her toys and books.

Nebez (5), from Chamchamal

Nebez is the child of a forced marriage. His family is very poor and extremely violent. Our staff soon realized that Nebez' parents' abusive past was the most important factor leading to an ongoing climate of family violence. Beatings, alcohol abuse, imprisonment, death and poverty are recur-



"The most difficult thing for traumatized children is that they cannot express their feelings. So we have them play or paint what they have seen and then talk about it. That takes time but it is well worth it."

ring experiences in the boy's life and environment.

When he came to our center, he showed some abnormal behavior such as social withdrawal and aggressiveness towards his sisters as well as shyness towards his father. He was reported to often feel ashamed and frustrated, to have nightmares and be inattentive.

He was examined by a medical doctor and has been participating in psychotherapy once a week. Play and art therapy provided him with a much-needed outlet to express his feelings and fears in a different manner. Most importantly, the boy's parents have agreed to participate in family therapy.

“ I will never forget that moment when we locked our front door in Syria. I love Sulaymaniyah because there are no explosions and I never see dying people and I can go out whenever I want. But I am always praying for Syria to become safe again. I want to go back home. ”



Celebration of the UN International Day of Democracy (Halabja 2014)

Access to Education and Information

In order to advance civil society and democracy in Iraq, the Jiyan Foundation offers education, training and awareness raising on the subjects of human rights, mental health and the consequences of harmful traditions. Our activities include seminars for school classes, training for multipliers, discussion groups for survivors and information for the general public.

As these various audiences and target groups have different needs and problems, we provide them with custom-fit education programs and information events.

Different Audiences

Between 2013 and 2014, our human rights education program at schools reached a total of 4300 students. Complementing their official curriculum, we taught them their rights and ways to claim them, proposed solutions to

everyday problems and fears but also addressed difficult topics such as abuse, violence and suicide.

The prevention of conflicts and violence is a topic important to both children and adult survivors of human rights violations and other vulnerable groups, including female prisoners, people living in remote areas with little access to education and patients with psychological problems. Yet, survivors and the most vulnerable additionally need information on mental health, human rights, gender-based violence,

child rearing and trauma. Throughout the last two years, almost 2500 women and men have benefited from our empowerment seminars specifically on these topics.

In order to build a sustainable network of professional multipliers, the Jiyan Foundation offered training to more than 1400 teachers, university students and employees of the public health and social sectors. We aimed to help them integrate their newly gained knowledge of human rights, psychological disturbances and the effects of violence into their respective work fields.

Reaching out Through the Media

Public relations and a regular presence in the media is key to successful human rights lobbying, awareness raising among the larger public and the presentation of our services to potential patients and crucial stakeholders. That is why the Jiyan Foundation maintained 95 press contacts, including local and international print and online media, newspapers, TV and radio stations.

Project staff further observed a variety of international days such as the Universal Children's Day and the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A dozen public events and campaigns attracted a total of hundreds of survivors, relatives, politicians, prison guards, cooperation partners and media representatives.

FROM A HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION TO A HUMAN RIGHTS NGO

As an organization offering medical and psychological services to survivors, we focus mainly on healing emotional scars and mitigating physical symptoms of human rights violations that lie in the past. With the renaming of the Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims into the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, we have decided to add a forward-looking and preventive mission to our work.

Since its foundation, the Jiyan Foundation has strived to give a voice to the most vulnerable and marginalized, namely women and children, refugees and displaced persons as well as victims of torture and other human rights violations.

With our new mission, we will reinforce this task through regular monitoring of their human rights situation. We will engage with political and legal stakeholders to draw attention to survivors' needs and challenges, and to achieve an improvement in their rights and living conditions.

8 March International Women's Day • **16 March** Commemoration of Chemical Attacks on Halabja • **9 April** End of the Saddam Regime • **14 April** Anfal Day • **1 June** Children's Day • **20 June** World Refugee Day • **26 June** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture • **30 August** International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances • **10 September** World Suicide Prevention Day • **15 September** International Day of Democracy • **20 November** Universal Children's Day • **25 November** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women • **10 December** Human Rights Day



"These are Your Rights": seminar for primary school class

We Remain our Glimmer of Hope

The unstable security situation renders the work of our staff in Kirkuk especially difficult. Every month, they wish to report an improvement but mostly have to draw a picture of violence and terror, postponing their hopes to the next month.

To highlight the difficult circumstances of their work, we have compiled a number of staff quotations on this page.

““

Every day we fear what will happen on our way to work. Whenever a car stands in front of the center we go out and check it to make sure it's an ordinary car. Living with these fears became part of our daily lives.

One of our staff lost her 12-year old nephew in a terrorist attack. After ten days in intensive care, he died and left his parents to grieve. He was their only son.

““

I hear his voice and see his picture everywhere I go. I have dealt with many cases in the center but it was different to feel the pain myself. I try to overcome my grief through work, faith and patience.

At the beginning of 2014, a bomb explosion occurred only a few meters away from our center. A number of civilians were killed and one of our staff got injured. All the windows were broken, the furniture was destroyed and the doors unhinged.

““

It was like an action movie. We did not know what to do and just sat there silently, tears running from our eyes. We felt that death may come at any minute.

““

We survived, but I was unable to sleep for more than a week and afraid to go outside. I wanted to quit work but then I realized this was not a solution. It can happen anywhere any time. Terror makes us all possible targets and no one is safe.

They all have developed their own coping strategies, one of them being the strong team support.

““

Something important about our staff must be mentioned and this is how they care about each other. When our colleague was wounded, they took her to hospital and stayed with her until her family arrived.

A DECADE OF TERROR AND DEATH

Already three years after the fall of the Ba'athist regime, Iraqis witnessed a sad new record in civilian deaths. Around 30,000 civilians died in military conflicts and through terrorist attacks between the summers of 2006 and 2007 (Iraq Body Count).

While the numbers significantly declined thereafter, the withdrawal of international troops led to a new rise in the death toll of civilians. Approximately 9500 persons were killed in 2013, making it a year almost as deadly as 2008. The reasons for this alarming increase were manifold and included tensions between Shia and Sunni communities, terrorist attacks by Al-Qaida and an influx of extremist groups from Syria.

In 2014, fear and terror reached a new level when the IS took control of large parts of Iraqi territory. Between January and May, the terrorists launched an offensive in Anbar Province in central Iraq and displaced about 500,000 persons. Their seemingly unopposed seizure of Mosul and advance on Baghdad led to a total of 1.2 million internally displaced persons by the end of June, among them Shia Muslims, Christians, Shabak and other minorities. At the beginning of August, the IS captured the town of Sinjar and systematically targeted its Yazidi population. Such acts amount to ethnic cleansing, as evidence from Amnesty International has shown.

Not only staff, but also the patients, have shown great support.



After the incident, some of our patients called us and wanted to know if we were fine.

One message matters most to the team. They want to stress that Islam and the crimes of the self-proclaimed "Islamic State" have nothing in common.



The major disaster is that they are doing all these things under the banner of Islam. Islam is a religion of peace and love. For thousands of years we have been living with our Christian and Yazidi brothers and sisters until IS came to kill them and burn down their holy sites. In fact, these terrorists have no religion. They are murderers and criminals, claiming to kill in the name of Islam.

When they look at the future, they are worried about the next generation and find comfort in the idea that our work can make a change.



Children are now talking about the bombings as if they were talking about a cartoon movie. How many generations will pay the price of what is happening to us now? I wish to write to you that the situation has improved and that we all returned to normal life. But unfortunately, the scope of violence increases every month, as does the number of people searching help at our center.



I pray to God that he can save us and bring back a smile to our faces. We on our part do our best to bring hope to the people who visit our center and encourage them to get rid of their fears and always try to support them. We remain our glimmer of hope.



Providing the Basis for an Educated and Aware Society

Eleven years after the fall of the Ba'ath regime, Salah Ahmad, president of the Jiyān Foundation, met the former chief judge of the Saddam trial, Rizgar Mohammed Amin. They exchanged thoughts on the legal, political and social situation in Iraq. Amin drew an unadorned and critical picture of his country.

“ We must not be satisfied with not being as bad as they are. We should rather strive to protect the honor, dignity and rights of every human being living in our territory. ”

Salah Ahmad: As a person who knows our country well and as a prominent figure in the legal field, how would you describe the political, economic and social challenges in post-Saddam Iraq?

Rizgar Mohammed Amin: First of all, I would like to say that we should accept the facts as they are and face our problems. We must dare to speak up against things we are unwilling to address and unveil them.

Assuming that toppling the terror regime could put an end to all problems has definitely proven to

be wrong. We do have democratic principles and features in Iraq, including a parliament, elections, free media. However, to what extent are they protecting democratic principles?

For instance, individual behavior, relationships, and internal by-laws of the political parties have worsened. Even the parties that used to be in opposition to the Ba'ath regime have contributed to the prevalent stalemate. Moreover, they set a bad example of economic, political and social corruption.

We have deep concerns due to the fact that there is freedom, but no equal distribution of this freedom. Most society members are deprived of the most basic forms of freedom. In contrast, several groups enjoy absolute freedom and can carry out crimes without being held responsible.

Eleven years after the fall of the regime, the government should seize the opportunity and work towards a democratic system. Sadly, only few of us are currently proud of being "Iraqi".

The trial of Saddam Hussein as one of the world's most oppressive dictators was a turning point in the political history of Iraq. Do you think that years after removing him from power, injustice prevails?

Iraq is a country rich in oil which is the source of huge income. One of the causes of inequality is the lack of a system, a cutting-edge management framework and qualified persons that might help to successfully distribute this wealth. Of course, we cannot deny the fact that proposing a change of this kind would encounter resistance, especially regarding existing tribal, communal and sectarian systems.

This type of political system is an impediment and threat to human rights, dignity, individuality and legitimate freedoms of human beings.

We had hoped for quite a while to be able to overcome dictatorship. But unfortunately our focus turned from freedom and human rights to conflicts over oil revenues and the distribution of influence and power.

You have talked about problems in Iraq. What is different in Kurdistan?

The complexity and challenges of establishing the rule of law are similar in Iraq and Kurdistan. However, we have had the chance to practice democracy since 1991. Today, there are plenty of opportunities in Kurdistan for taking action and filling the vacuums created during the reign of the Ba'ath regime.

What is important is that we must choose a successful role model. We should compare our situation with an example of best practice, not with the deteriorating situation in Iraq.

Let me give one example. Of course, prison conditions and methods of crime investigation in Baghdad are rather comparable to a slaughterhouse than anything else.

But, legally speaking, there is still physical and psychological torture in Kurdistan, as well as violations of human rights. This does not make us different from other countries, but it tends to increase the distance between us and our visions of an ideal society.

We must not be satisfied with not being as bad as they are. We should rather strive to protect the

“ We all know at least one person who suffered from torture. Hundreds of rehabilitation centers are required to help them become active and optimistic members of society again. ”

honor, dignity and rights of every human being living in our territory.

The Ba'ath regime has also had strong social impacts on society. You know that dictatorships bring about the worst things in some human beings and reward sadist character traits. How can we overcome this legacy?

Yes, it is true that the social and psychological effects of that regime on individuals and the society as a whole are clear enough to necessitate continuous scientific studies. We all lived in a world full of violence and this affects our behavior.

We are now able to change the political and legal system. We can vote for new laws, remove or amend certain articles. But who will delete the social and mental impacts on individuals and enable them to live together in a spirit of forgiveness and acceptance of each other's rights?

We all know at least one person who suffered from torture and whom we need to help. Hundreds of rehabilitation centers are required to help those affected in order to, once again, become active and optimistic members of society. It is our basic moral duty to save the victims of such totalitarian regimes.

And of course, prevention is better than treatment and cure. We need to provide the basis for an educated and aware society.

Rizgar Mohammed Amin was the chief judge in the trial of Saddam Hussein for charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Amin graduated from the Law School of Baghdad University in 1980. He was reluctant to join the Ba'ath party and long prevented from joining the ranks of his colleagues. Being the only judge whose face had been published, he became the target of criticism and death threats and resigned as chief judge in 2006.

Salah Ahmad has worked as a systemic family therapist and child and youth psychotherapist at the Berlin Center for Torture Victims (bzfo) since 1992. Having experienced flight and exile himself, he specialized in the treatment of traumatized refugees. His commitment for the rehabilitation of survivors of violence led him to establish the Jiyun Foundation for Human Rights in 2005, over which he has been presiding since then.

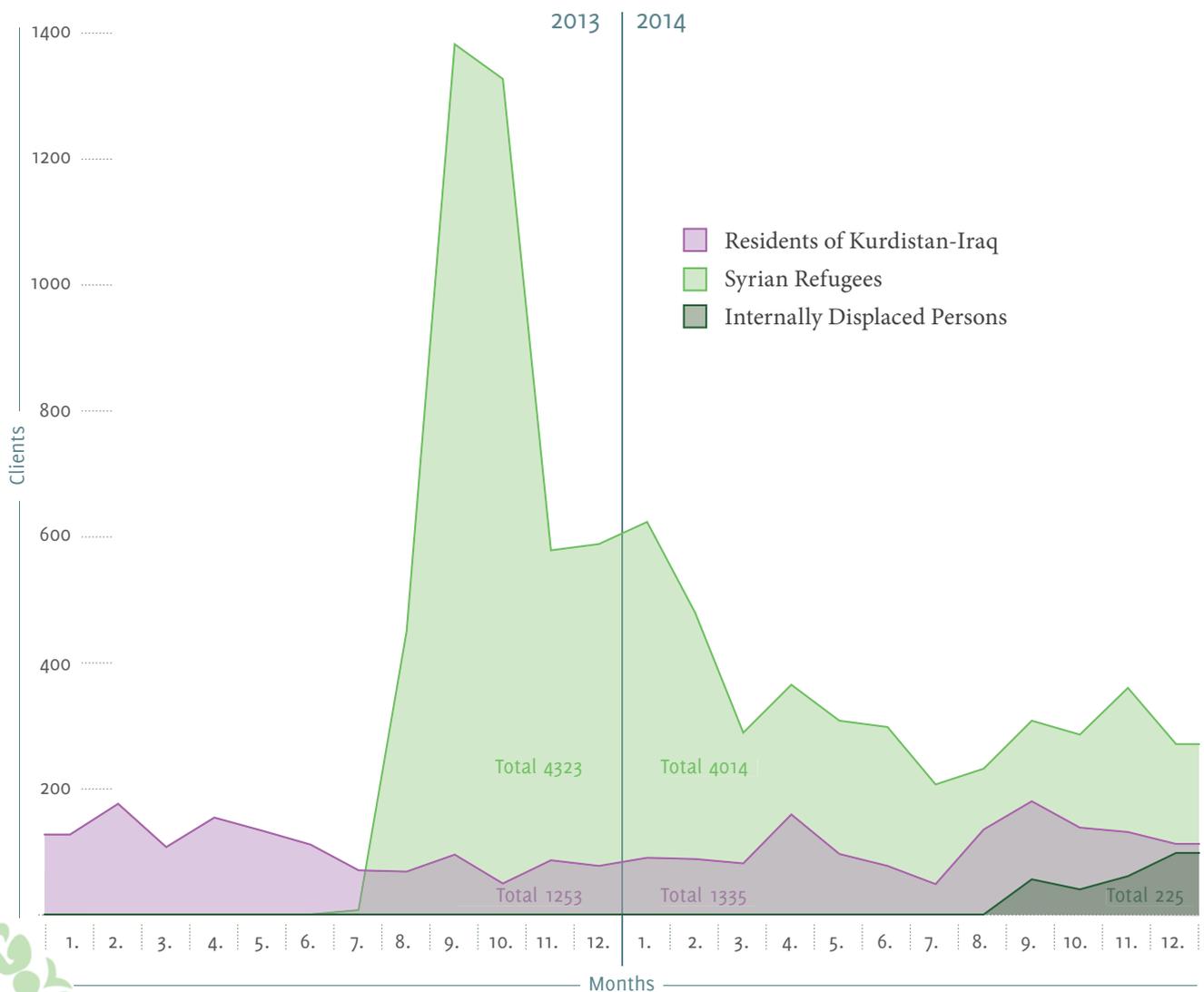
Impressions



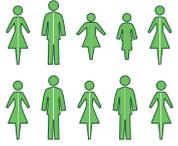


Facts & Figures

Client Statistics | in N° and %



Some Figures



2467 women participated in self-help and empowerment groups.

95 interviews for local media, including TV and radio stations, newspapers and online magazines.

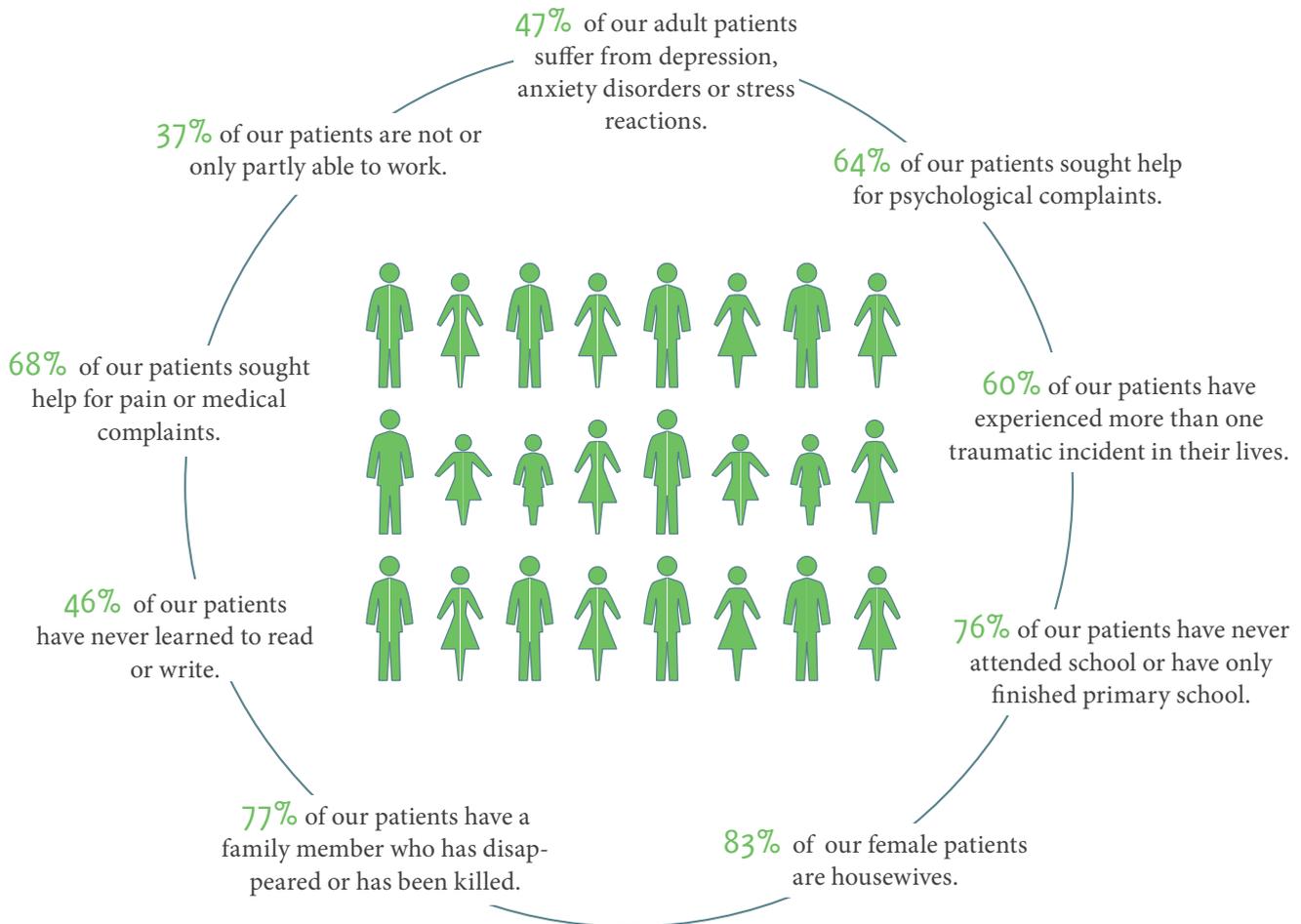
A **dozen social media campaigns** helped to increase supporters from 5000 to 36,000 and **reached** more than **1.2 million** persons.

1468 persons benefited from seminars and lectures on human rights issues.

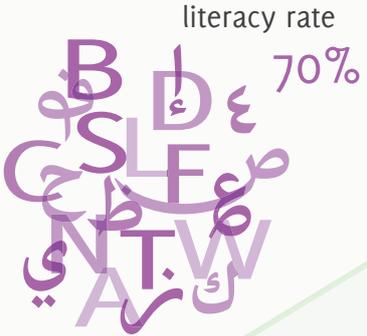
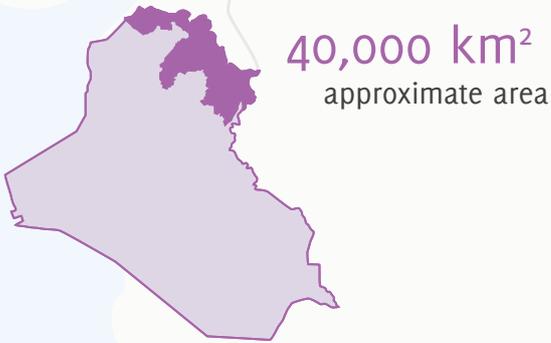
About **4300 students and pupils** attended human rights education seminars in schools.

60 staff took part in some **400 hours** of training and supervision.

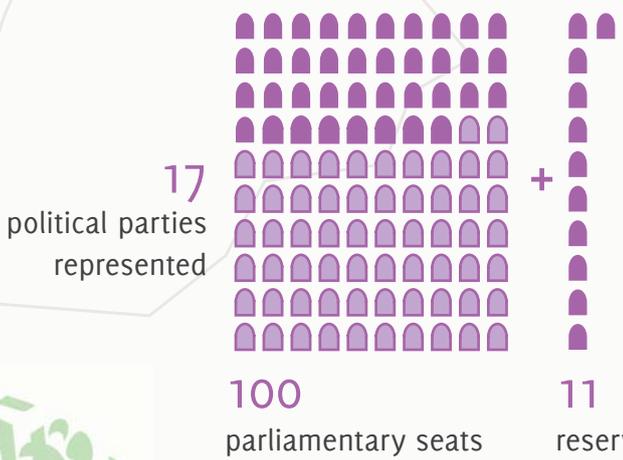
Our -fans come from **46 different countries**. Of the Iraqi fans, **40%** are from Iraqi Kurdistan and **39%** from Baghdad.



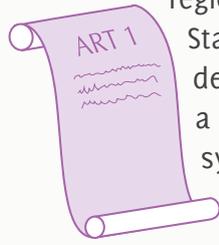
Kurdistan-Iraq in Brief



38% female parliamentarians



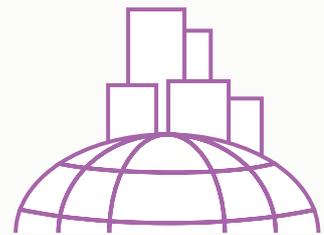
“ The Iraqi Kurdistan Region is a region within the Federal State of Iraq. It is a democratic republic with a parliamentary political system that is based on political pluralism, the principle of separation of powers, and the peaceful transfer of power through direct, general, and periodic elections that use a secret ballot. ”



36%
population aged
0-14 years



800,000+
internally displaced persons hosted in 2014



2300
foreign companies
in Kurdistan



7000 years
continuous inhabitation of Erbil

GDP per capita
US\$ 5000 (est.)
increase since 2003:
1400%



1300 5000+
public and private schools

1 30+
universities and colleges

0 20+
international diplomatic
representations

200,000+
Syrian refugees hosted in 2014

Team

Abbas Mohammed Qadir Guard	Awder Abubakir Said-Hamalaw Therapist	Elham Salah Ibrahim Therapist	Hawre Rasool Raza Therapist
Dr. Abdulkarim Khidhir Abbas Psychiatrist	Azad Mustafa Qader Local Branch Manager	Elham Shamon Khames Janitor	Dr. Hawzhin Fazil Mahmood Medical Specialist
Abobakr Omer Ismaiel Al-Salhi Physiotherapist	Azhin Hashim Tayib Therapist	Dr. Entesar Majed Suliman Gynecologist	Hedayat Omer Abdullah Driver
Dr. Adnan Asaad Tahir Psychiatrist	Azmar Mohammed-Jamal Driver	Essam Abdel-Hameed Ahmed Therapist	Hedi Mohammed Dhahir Therapist
Aghdas Mohammad Fateh Receptionist	Baida Abdulaziz Mirza Medical Doctor	Fakhir Mohammad Abbas Therapist	Heerish Saadi Azuo Therapist
Ahmed Ali Ahmed Receptionist	Bakhtiar Hadi Hassan Pedagogue	Farsat S. Saadi Medical Doctor	Hero Ahmed Ghafour Therapist
Akam Ali Saeed Medical Doctor	Banu Mohammed Hilmy Volunteer	Fatma Mahmood Abdullah Janitor	Hive Shaban Muhammad Receptionist
Ako Abdulkareem Abdulwahed Therapist	Baravan Ismat Mohamad Driver	Friederike Regel Project Coordinator / Board	Hoshiyar Murad Hama-Yousif Medical Doctor
Ako Faiq Mohammed Local Branch Manager	Barham Zainalddin Sahib Medical Doctor	Forough Pourchi Kangarloo Volunteer	Ibrahim Ahmad Faraj Gardener
Ali Ahmad Awlla Therapist	Barik Sadalah Khider Driver	Fuad Ahmed Mohammed Therapist	Ibrahim Askandar Abdulla Medical Doctor
Amanj Hussein Medical Doctor	Bayan Azizi Board	Fuad Hamad Amen Ismael Janitor	Ibrahim Hama-Sa'ed Mohammed Therapist
Anas Ibrahim Ameen Medical Doctor	Bilind Barzan Ameen Therapist	Gaylan Kemal Anwer Local Director	Idris Haji Ahmed Medical Doctor
Antonia Hess Intern	Bizar Neamat Sulaiman Therapist	Ghalib Qadir Hamza Guard	Iran Abdoljabar Ahmed Therapist
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Araz Abdulrahman Amad Therapist	Chenar Seerwan Ahmad Therapist	Goran Mohammed Rasul Therapist	Dr. Jasim Mohammed Shindi Psychiatrist
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Aveen Shahab Aziz Therapist	Delman Muhammed Kareem PR Officer	Hassan Habib Muhammad Janitor	Kafia Anwar Jum'a Janitor
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Awara Abdulqader Mustafa Therapist	Diler Ahmad Ali Therapist	Hawkar Usmar Amad Therapist	Khalat Akram Hama Rashid Receptionist

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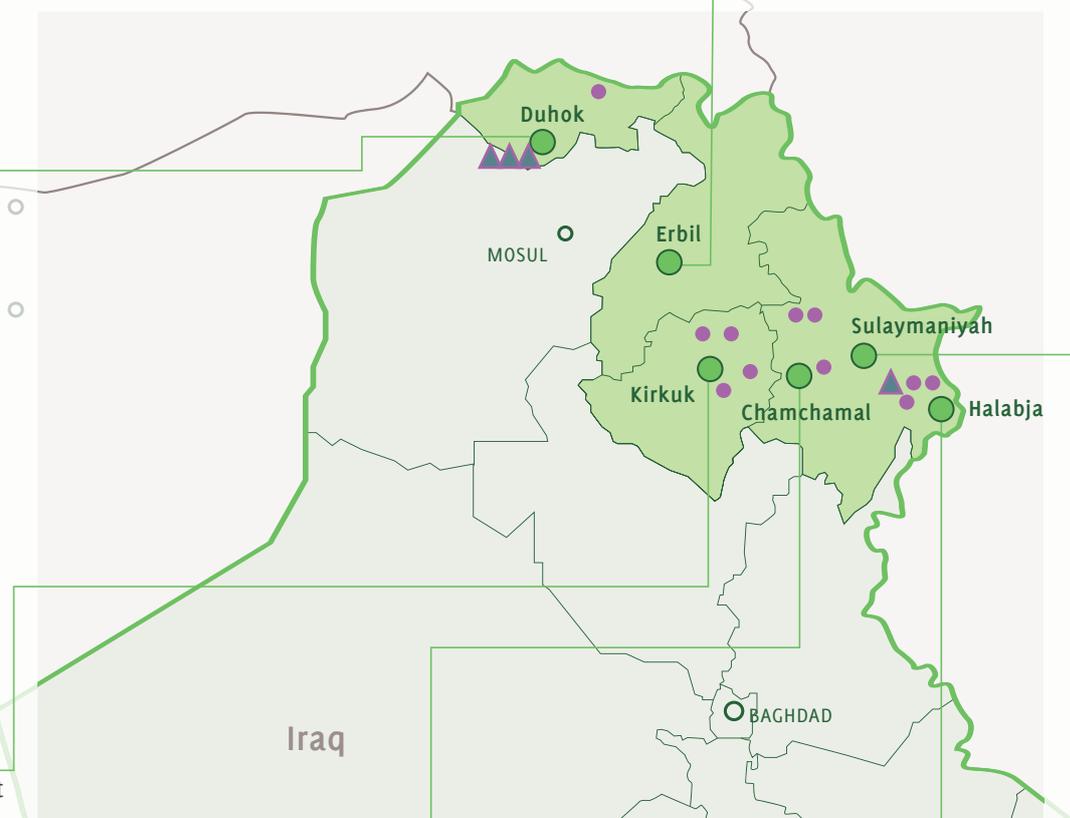
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- Branches
- Mobile Teams
- ▲ Sub-Branches in Refugee and IDP camps
- Iraqi Kurdistan



Chart



Advisory Council

- Arts & Humanities
- Science
- Public Affairs
- Media
- Religious Dialogue

Consultants

- General Counsel
- Legal Advisor
- External Auditor
- Trainers & Supervisors

Units

Advocacy & Policy Change

advocating for the implementation of human rights conventions and standards in Iraq • lobbying for the rights and needs of survivors • monitoring human rights in Iraq • reporting to international bodies

Professional Training & Research

capacity building and mentoring for members of the systems of education, health and social affairs, for civil society initiatives and human rights advocates • documentation, research and publication

International Cooperation

transnational cooperation and joint human rights projects with NGOs outside Iraq • global fundraising and advocacy to support democracy and human rights in Iraq • consultancy for civil society initiatives in the Middle East and worldwide

Programs

medical and psycho-therapeutic treatment for refugees from Syria and war-torn areas in Iraq • project for victims of religious persecution in Duhok and Nineveh • inter-ethnic dialogue project in urban areas of central and northern Iraq

rehabilitation center for victims of chemical attacks in Halabja • mobile outreach for victims of the Anfal campaign living in rural areas • legal counseling for survivors seeking redress

age-specific medical and psychotherapeutic treatment • family counseling and awareness-raising to prevent violence against children and youth • outreach to juvenile prisons and orphanages

Refugees & Minorities

Survivors of Torture & Terrorism

medical and psycho-therapeutic treatment • legal counseling for survivors seeking redress • mobile outreach to rural areas and refugee camps

Victims of Genocide

Women's Rights

gender-sensitive medical and psychotherapeutic treatment and socio-legal counseling • family counseling and awareness-raising to prevent domestic violence • outreach to women's prisons and shelters

Children's Rights

Democracy & Civil Society

strengthening the rule of law through training for security forces and members of the judicial system • consultancy for political decision-makers • human rights education in schools • empowerment groups for survivors • awareness raising activities for the general public

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German Foreign Office



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



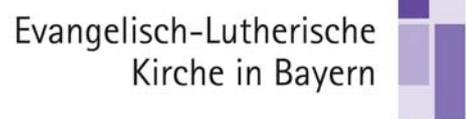
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UN High Commissioner for Refugees



MISEREOR



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Foundation Wings of Hope



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Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau



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Help us Finish our Healing Garden!

We are building a healing garden for traumatized children and families in Chamchamal. You can help with your donation!



This tranquil green refuge will provide a calming environment for our younger patients to engage in activities which are soothing, yet fun, such as gardening, looking after farm animals including rabbits and ponies and of course, for rest and play. Animal therapy has been proven to have a healing effect as it restores faith, trust and self-confidence. Courses in traditional arts and crafts aid in preserving the cultural heritage of this city.

Your support will transform our plans into action!

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Betterplace

You may also make donations through www.betterplace.org/en.

Betterplace is a German-based donation platform and forwards 100% of the donation to the cause.

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