



Jiyan Foundation
for Human Rights

Annual
Report

2012

Contents

Introduction

- 1 Review
- 2 Mission

Programs

- 4 Survivors of Torture
- 6 Victims of Genocide
- 7 Minorities & Refugees
- 8 Women's Rights
- 10 Children's Rights
- 12 Civil Society & Democracy

Analysis

- 14 Rehabilitation & Redress
- 15 Interview
- 16 Statistics

Organization

- 18 Team
- 20 Offices
- 22 Partners
- 24 Donations



Welcome.

A decade after the fall of the Saddam regime and a quarter-century after the genocidal campaign against the Kurdish people, Iraq is still afflicted by violence and extremism. The Jiyān Foundation promotes human rights in one of the most challenging countries on earth.

Established in 2005 as the “Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims”, our organization has adopted a new name to reflect the wide range of human rights violations experienced by thousands of men, women and children who have sought our help during the past eight years.

Protecting Human Dignity

In 2012, our team of 100 professionals reached out to more than 2000 victims of human rights abuses – including children traumatized by terrorist attacks, elderly survivors of genocide living in remote rural areas, families affected by ethnic or religious persecution, and victims of chemical warfare.

Our medical doctors, therapists and counselors also visited places that are frequently hidden from public view. They worked in juvenile prisons, camps for refugees from Syria, shelters for abused women, and the homes of families where children endure domestic violence.

Advancing Civil Liberties

A democratic civil society can only prosper if its citizens are aware of their basic rights and prepared to defend their fundamental freedoms.

The Jiyān Foundation encourages individuals in Iraq to exercise the full spectrum of their civil liberties. Last year, nearly 3500 girls and boys participated in our human rights education program. More than 900 victims of violence took part in our seminars, workshops and self-

help groups. Another 600 health and human rights professionals attended our training programs.

Jîyan (جيان) 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.

International Support

On behalf of our clients and staff, many of whom did their jobs at great personal risk, we would like to thank all of those who supported our cause in 2012.

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 Jiyar 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.

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

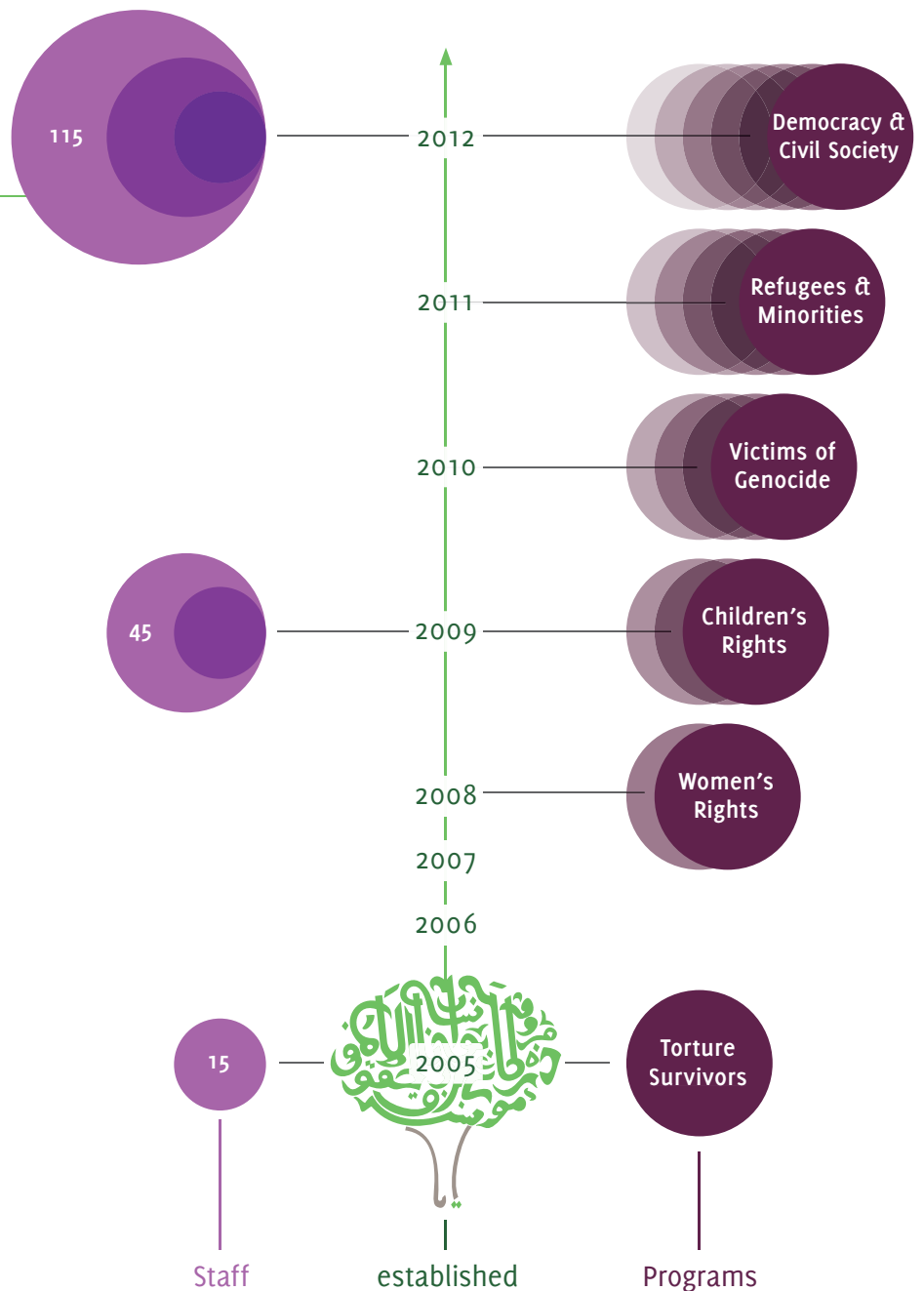
Our Values

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 multi-ethnic 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 (see map) where more than 10,000 traumatized men, women and children have received help.

Timeline of the Jiyan Foundation



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.

Our Beneficiaries

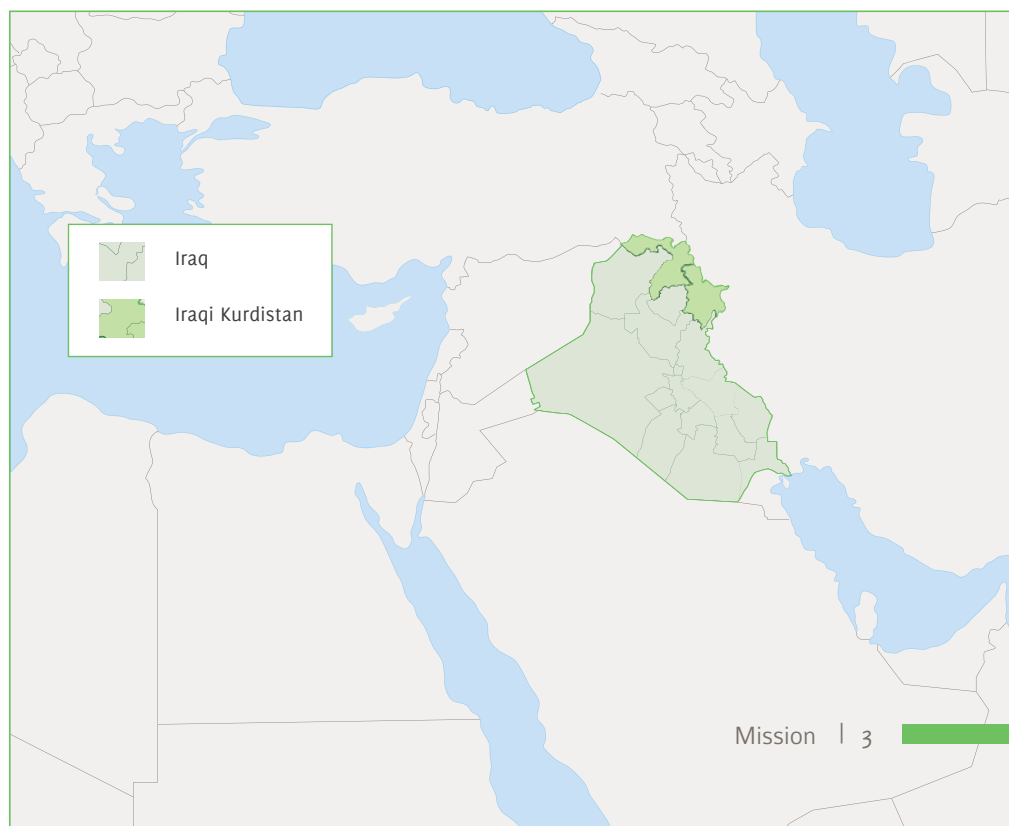
Each year, the Jiyan Foundation assists more than 2000 victims of human rights violations (see p. 16). On average, 50% of those who seek our help are female adults, while 30% are children and adolescents. The majority of our clients are Kurds, followed by Arabs, Turkmens, and Assyrians.

Our Team

The mission of the Jiyan Foundation is carried out by a young team of multi-lingual professionals. Our staff in Iraq includes medical doctors, psychotherapists and community health workers as well as pedagogues, lawyers, researchers and project managers (see p. 18).

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 cooperates with a wide range of non-governmental organizations as well as health institutions and governmental agencies.





Confronting Torture and Terror

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that everyone is “born free and equal in dignity and rights”. For many children and adults living in Iraq, these are empty words.

During the past decades, countless Iraqi citizens were subjected to oppression, persecution and inhuman treatment. While thousands of victims of the former dictatorial regime are still missing and mass graves continue to be discovered, a new generation of children grows up in a world of terror and trauma.

The city of Kirkuk, where our organization was founded, was once again ravaged by waves of terrorist attacks. In this city, and indeed throughout the entire country, the “organization with the green tree”, as the Jiyan Foundation is locally known, was the only institution offering comprehensive services to survivors of past



atrocities and ongoing human rights abuses.

Freedom from Fear

Our rehabilitation centers are designed as safe spaces where an interdisciplinary team of helpers assists traumatized victims in voicing their needs, claiming their rights and reasserting their dignity in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

We see entire families where the father's health has been destroyed by years of imprisonment and torture, where the mother is illiterate because she grew up in a refugee camp for victims of ethnic cleansing, and where the children are paralyzed with fear as a result of the violence that surrounds them.

Our Services

On the physical level, our team of medical specialists offers a range of rehabilitation services, including physiotherapy and pain relief; gynecological and pediatric care; as well as surgical treatment in cooperation with local hospitals.

On the psychological level, our therapists aim to empower survivors to overcome their trauma. We offer detailed psychological diagnostics;

“ This center is more than just a treatment center. It is a hospital, a school, a private clinic, and a social counseling office for our clients. They trust us and believe that we can help them and change their situation for the better. Our patients tell us many hidden subjects and secrets, describe their pains and sometimes speak to us about their dreams. They are lost between past suffering and present struggle. ”

Therapist • Jiyar Foundation for Human Rights

counseling for individuals, families and groups; as well as special psychotherapy for children and adolescents.

On the social level, our counselors help victims reintegrate into society so that they can play an active role in their communities. We provide clients with advice regarding welfare, legal redress, and access to educational opportunities.

Finally, on the moral and political level, we inform the public about victims' needs and advocate for legal reform to strengthen protection mechanisms for vulnerable persons. In particular, we put pressure on the public authorities in Iraq to implement the UN Convention against Torture and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“ When my death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, the commander of the prison greeted me with the following words: “So you are happy that you escaped death? Well, here in my facility I will soon teach you that some things are worse than death. Welcome to Abu Ghraib.” ”

Victim of the Saddam Regime



Supporting Victims of Genocide

More than a million people died in the “forgotten” war between Iraq and Iran (1980-1988) – one of the most violent conflicts of the 20th century. The Baathist regime of Iraq used this war as a pretext to kill an estimated 180,000 Kurds, while the theocrats of Iran consolidated their totalitarian ideology through total warfare.

The Spoils Of War

International companies and foreign governments were complicit in arming these brutal adversaries. In 1986, Saddam Hussein launched the al-Anfal Campaign (literally: the “spoils of war”) against the Kurdish people and other non-Arab minorities in northern Iraq. Headed by his cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, the campaign included mass deportation, aerial bombing, firing squads, and systematic destruction of villages.

In March 1988, more than 5000 civilians living in the town of Halabja died in what is considered to be the largest chemical weapons attack directed against a civilian-populated area in history.

None of the perpetrators ever apologized to the victims, neither did they offer any compensation.

“ You must know ... what you are doing for us here in Halabja is unheard-of. For over twenty years we have been suffering now, and you are the first ones to soothe our pain. Each day I include you in my prayers. ”

Goran • Halabja

– is the only institution catering to the medical and psychological needs of those who survived those fateful days a quarter-century ago.

Loss and Hope

Some of our patients lost all of their parents and children. Others, having been exposed to the

In 1988, when Asma lived in the town of Amediya, an Iraqi military airplane dropped chemical weapons on the city. As she was standing on the roof of her house, she was exposed to the toxic substances. Her eyes were burned and became permanently infected afterwards. Due to the fact that anyone talking about chemical weapons was immediately captured and persecuted by the secret police, she was unable to seek medical help. To this day, her eyes have no tears.

poison gas, have lost their eyesight, their fertility, and even their ability to shed tears. Many of our medical doctors and therapists who seek to bring hope to the survivors have lost their own relatives in the massacre.

International solidarity and public recognition of the injustice done to them means a great deal to the survivors. In a gesture that would have been unthinkable

a few years ago, a number of health professionals from Iran now offer professional advice and training sessions for our colleagues in Iraq. On the 25th anniversary of the Halabja chemical attacks, the British House of Commons finally recognized the genocide against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, encouraging the EU and the UN to do likewise. The Jiyān Foundation will continue to support the survivors in their quest for redress.



Protecting Minorities and Refugees

There was a time when Iraq was known as Mesopotamia – the cradle of human civilization. Since antiquity, dozens of ethnic and religious groups have inhabited this country. Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians now represent the largest ethnic minorities.

Pluralism

Lesser-known religious minorities include Yazidis, Mandaean, Shabaks and Yârsân, as well as Chaldean, Syriac and Armenian Christians. In recent years, central Iraq has experienced alarming levels of extremist violence directed against these vulnerable communities, endangering the survival of their ancient spiritual and cultural heritage. Many of those trying to escape persecution seek refuge in the Kurdistan Region.

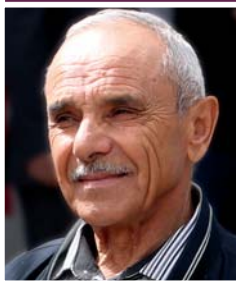
Here, with the support of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and the Foundation Wings of Hope, the Jiyan Foundation has launched a project for traumatized victims of persecution living in Duhok, Erbil and the Nineveh Plains. In 2012, more than 200 traumatized individuals received medical and psychosocial support.

Syria

Since the beginning of the Syrian insurrection, more than 120,000 citizens of Syria have been killed in a war that the United Nations has called the worst threat to global peace and security since the last century. Almost 200,000 individuals have sought protection in Kurdistan-Iraq to escape atrocities committed by the Assad regime and a growing number of Islamist extremists. The majority of these refugees fled from the multi-ethnic provinces of Hasakah, Aleppo, Damascus and Raqqah.

In 2012, the Jiyan Foundation started offering emergency services to a first wave of traumatized

Syrian refugees. With support from Misereor and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, our efforts have grown into a full-fledged program addressing the medical and psychotherapeutic needs of Syrian survivors living in urban areas and refugee camps (see map p. 20). The program puts special emphasis on identifying victims of gender-based violence, documenting past and ongoing human rights violations, and training multipliers in the field of human rights and rehabilitation.



Born in 1940 into an Assyrian-Christian family, Youshia Odisho Warda received his degree in medicine and surgery in Ukraine. After working in Iraq, Teheran, Syria, Tunisia and Canada, he returned to his birthplace

Dohuk in 2003. In 2011, he joined our team as a medical specialist. He speaks Assyrian, Kurdish, Arabic, English, Russian, Swedish and Persian.





Between Law and Customs

Leyla is a victim of physical violence and verbal abuse by her husband. She is 35 years old, has four children and lives in Erbil. At the age of fifteen, Leyla had been forced by her family to marry a man she did not know.

Leyla told us her story: *“When I look back I cannot recall any happy memories. I have always been humiliated and abused. My husband hates me. He never gives us any money and I am forbidden to visit my relatives. My hus-*

“ You taught me how to talk to my husband. Now I can convince him without quarrel. My life is green different now. **”**

Female client • Chamchamal

band had affairs with various women; he even brought them to our house. I left

him several times but my parents sent me back and did not allow me to file for divorce. My husband threatened to take away my kids. But I live merely for my kids’ sake! I attempted suicide several times but each time pondering upon the possible fate of my kids, I refused to kill myself. My husband broke my teeth and locked me inside the house for two days. I want to leave him and take my kids with me.”

With the help of a fellow NGO we hired a lawyer. Following the first summoning by the court, the pressure



from Leyla’s husband and his family became immense. Leyla’s husband transferred their children to an unknown location and accused his wife of having an affair. Several times, he and his relatives threatened to kill her if she did not drop the charges against him. Leyla finally gave in and returned home.

After numerous controversies raised by supporters and opponents, eventually the Domestic Violence Prevention Act had been approved at the Parliament of Iraqi Kurdistan in June 2011 and was referred to various ministries and organizations in order to be implemented. Human and women’s rights activists consider this act a huge step towards eliminating violence against women while jurists and lawyers greeted it with both approval and criticism.

The law was on Leyla’s side, but social customs were stronger. This is one of many examples, which prove that mere laws cannot guarantee the rights of women who have been subjected to violence. What Leyla and her children needed most was protection.

Protection and Social Security

The city of Erbil has about one million inhabitants and only one shelter for women. The Erbil shelter is an overcrowded place marked by strict rules, misery and a lack of activities. Women are not allowed to bring along their children. Only those with literally no choice left are prepared to endure this environment: women who are threatened by death and have nowhere else to go.

When Leyla left her husband she had no financial means. With neither school certificate nor vocational training, Leyla was unable to find a job. Since her family refused to support her, she had only two opportunities: staying in a women’s shelter without future perspectives or returning to her kids and her violent husband. Leyla would refuse the shelter. She said she could not stand being separated from her kids and staying locked up all day.

“ The Iraq that we know today has emerged from many battles and wars. Poverty, deprivation and maltreatment of all forms have had a negative impact on the lives of the Iraqi people; especially women were and are victims. Their situation is worsened by social customs that do not allow them to speak about their problems, rendering them powerless. They suffer all throughout their lives. As children, they have to obey their fathers and brothers. Then they are imprisoned by their husbands, at whose hands they suffer abuses. At our center, we are there to help them. The women who come here tell us that we are the place where they can talk honestly and without fear. ”

Female staff • Kirkuk



Overcoming Trauma

Today, Leyla continues to visit our center. But she is only one of 985 women who sought help at our centers in 2012. There are some who, like Leyla, struggle with social customs and insufficient protection systems. And there are those who, with the help of therapy, family counseling and self-help groups, are enabled to overcome their trauma and take steps towards a better and self-determined life. There is Amina, who escaped her violent father, became a tailor and is now able to provide for herself and her grandmother. And there is Shelan, who found comfort in sharing her ordeal during group therapy and told us: You allowed me to talk about my greatest fears and shame.

The special court enacts if necessary (protection mandate), or upon the request of any member of the family or his/her representative, as an interim measure, the protection of victims of domestic violence.

The protection mandate includes the following:

- to make sure that the defendant will not harm the victim or any member of the family
- not to allow the defendant to enter the family house upon enactment of the court and for the period the defendant is deemed a threat to the victim or any member of the family

Article IV • Law Against Domestic Violence

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in the province will provide shelters for victims of domestic violence.

Cases of domestic violence will be offered services from the social protection network.

Article III • Law Against Domestic Violence



Rozhan, Farzad and Rabar

Children who visit our centers suffer from panic attacks, nightmares, reduced appetite, sadness and the desire to destroy. We help them to come back to life, by talking, playing and stabilizing families. Rozhan, Farzad and Rabar are three out of over 600 child patients.

The majority of children and adolescents who seek help at the Jiyān Foundation are affected by some form of violence. Many have experienced maltreatment at the hands of their parents. Others have witnessed horrific scenes of killing or destruction. Some have survived torture, war and kidnapping or have lost loved ones in bomb attacks. All of this has negative repercussions on their psychological health.

Rozhan (13), from Kirkuk

Rozhan is a 13-year-old, adorable and pretty girl who used to be joyful and social. On a very normal day, when Rozhan was just nine years old, she had breakfast with her family. Her father left for work, Rozhan kissed him goodbye and asked him to bring her some candies.

A few hours later, Rozhan's mother received a phone call informing her that

her husband had been injured in a bomb explosion. She started to shout and cry and rushed to the hospital. When she came back some time later, she carried the dead body of Rozhan's father.

Rozhan was shocked and refused to believe that her father was dead. When she came to our center in Kirkuk, she cried and refused to eat, change her clothes or take a bath. Four years after the incident, Rozhan was still desperately waiting for her father to bring her candies.

Farzad (18), from Hawija

During one of our visits to the juvenile prison in Kirkuk we found Farzad, an 18-year-old boy from Hawija. Farzad used to live with his parents and seven siblings in rather poor conditions.

One day, a terrorist attack hit their neighborhood. The police randomly arrested Farzad together with many other bystanders. Farzad endured many kinds of severe torture aimed at forcing him to confess a crime he did not commit.

When he was unable to respond, they finally transferred him to a juvenile prison.

Rabar (12), from Chamchamal

Rabar's mother told us how his father beats her son and shouts at him nearly every single day. Several times, he has locked his son in a dark room. Whenever she tries to protect him, he beats her as well. Since the smallest thing drives Rabar's father crazy, nobody dares to speak when he is home.

Rabar told us: I wish to see my father smiling and bring us ice cream. I pray that God takes my father back and rescues us from him.

When Rabar visited the center in Chamchamal, he bit his nails, was afraid of everything and isolated himself. He wet his bed at night and complained of headaches.

Rabar was a very angry child who would attack his schoolmates and destroy things. One day he even tried

to rape a girl. He was ashamed of his behavior but could not help it.

Back to Life

Many children visiting our centers show symptoms of severe stress, just like Rozhan, Farzad and Rabar. They cannot help themselves and their parents do not know how to deal with them.

The phenomenon of parental violence is a result of stress and frequent war experience. The main reasons for parents becoming violent are alcohol or drug abuse, psychological problems and disturbed relationships between spouses. All of this affects the children's well-being and behavior.

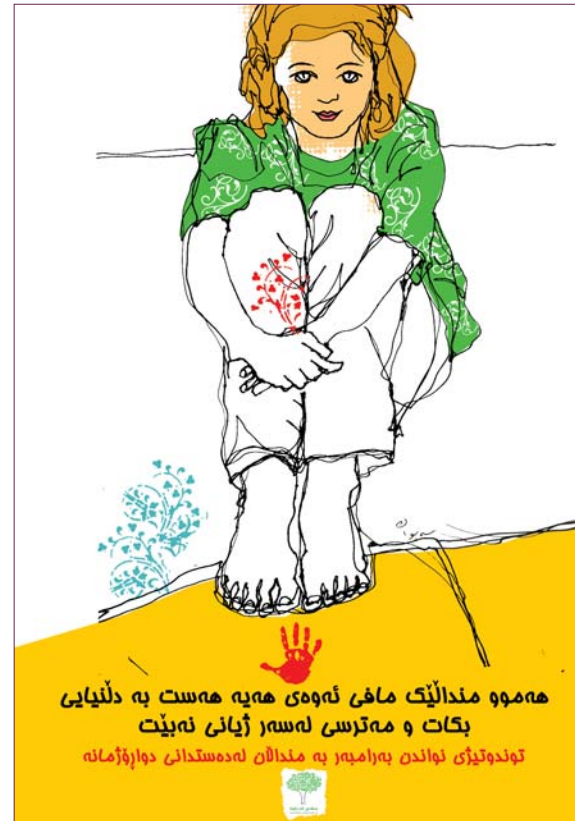
We try to gain their confidence through talking and playing. We arrange group events that help children learn from each other and express their fears. We include their parents in therapy and teach them how to support their traumatized child. And we organize legal counseling for persons like Farzad in order to help him obtain justice for his ordeal.

Rozhan was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder. She regularly sees our psychiatrist and attends group therapy. Farzad took part in several psychological counselling sessions, was finally released from prison and lives again with his family.

The greatest success was Rabar's father visiting our center and promising to stop beating his children. We keep on monitoring Rabar's development and observe him getting better every week.

“ Many parents do not know anything about child psychology. We had many cases of kids injured in bomb attacks. The parents bring their child to the hospital and have its injuries treated. But they don't know that the soul also needs care. When their kid starts to behave strangely, when it cries at night and stops eating, they come to us. Children in our country are neglected both by the government and their parents. They are the weakest part of society and always the last to receive attention. ”

Child Therapist • Jiyana Foundation for Human Rights



Campaign against family violence.



Starting from Scratch

In order to advance civil society and democracy in Iraq, the Jiyan Foundation offers training and awareness raising events on human rights for various audiences. Our activities include seminars for school classes, training for multipliers, discussion groups for survivors and information for the general Iraqi public.

“Democracy is like blowing your nose. You may not do it well, but it’s something you ought to do yourself”, English writer G.K. Chesterton (1874–1936) once said. What may at first glance seem a demonstratively casual comparison does contain a certain truth when it comes to post-dictatorial societies.

With the end of the Ba’athist regime in 2003 and the subsequent US-led multinational invasion of the country, the population’s self-concept and mode of behaviour did not change straight-away in regard to the newly instituted political and moral parameters. Ten years later despite some considerable achievements on the part of national

and international NGOs, Iraqi civil society remains fragile and fragmented, as the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq has recently noted.

That is why the Jiyan Foundation tries not only to adjust its training contents to the specific needs of local communities, but also to take up seemingly basic values as discussion topics that are closely connected to people’s personal lives.

Human Rights Education Program in Schools

In this context, the Human Rights Education Program stimulates discus-

According to the Democracy Index 2012 published by The Economist Intelligence Unit, Iraq ranks 113 out of 167 countries. This is one of the poorest performances among the so-called hybrid regimes, political systems positioned between “flawed democracies” and “authoritarian regimes”.



sion with children and adolescents in schools, universities and elsewhere, by strengthening their self-confidence, addressing their fears and anxieties, teaching them their rights and ways to protect themselves, promoting friendship and mutual support, fostering a natural contact between boys and girls and dealing with anger and violent behavior.

Engaging in dialogue in a very child-friendly and playful atmosphere is a completely new experience to many members of the young target group, which even includes minors in prison. Art therapy, sports activities, presentations, storytelling and other pedagogical activities are part of this educational program.

The children themselves almost always express very positive, even enthusiastic feedback. Their responses are also sometimes surprisingly wise for their age. For instance, 8 to 9-year-old boys of Gasha School in Sulaymaniyah realized that the girls in their class were as good at playing football as they were. After a discussion on children's rights in the Rehabilitation Center Sulaymaniyah, a boy named Taman said: "It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor; every child has the right to go to school". And during a training on selfishness and friendship, a girl was congratulated and encouraged by her classmates and the team when she told them how she had comforted a friend of hers that felt excluded.

In total, the Jiyān Foundation provided more than 3500 young people (amongst them more than 50% girls) with the opportunity to learn about fundamental rights and ways to deal with and communicate their often difficult social and personal situations.

Training for Multipliers

Yet, our work would not be possible without a large number of health care professionals, social workers and therapists who are sufficiently trained on human rights issues, the causes and effects of violence and trauma, and on the didactic principles of imparting knowledge.

“ We asked the girls to make a drawing on black paper. With white pencils only. We noticed that it was very difficult for some of the girls to draw only with one color. They were used to the fact that a tree must be green with brown and not only white. Because that's what they have learned. I don't think they ever thought out of the box because they weren't allowed to do that. ”

Pedagogue • Jiyān Foundation for Human Rights

The Jiyān Foundation regularly offers training for those multipliers, namely locals from different professional backgrounds who bring into society the rather abstract concepts of responsible and active citizenship. More specifically, this includes seminar topics such as domestic violence, children's and women's rights, mental health, conflict resolution, trauma therapy and practical information on rehabilitation services. In 2012, the Jiyān Foundation was able to reach approximately 600 multipliers.

Empowering Survivors and Vulnerable Groups

It is often said that a democracy is measured by how it treats its weakest members. Nevertheless, equally important is the self-empowerment of vulnerable groups. In order to strengthen their ability to act on their own and boost their self-esteem, the Jiyān Foundation specifically addresses adult survivors of violence, female prisoners and victims of domestic or sexual abuse, as well as patients suffering from psychological problems.

In 2012, 927 people seized the opportunity to participate in workshops, psycho-educational sessions, group therapy, and information events. As this figure shows, awareness raising campaigns are not limited to a certain group but are rather aimed at a larger public. The Jiyān Foundation indeed disseminates information material on human rights and secures its presence in the media.

In the end, democracy is not just like blowing your nose. It requires a process of complex political, social and individual changes and a culturally sensitive approach from those who intend to initiate these changes.

Campaign for children's rights.



The Right to Redress and Rehabilitation

Victims of 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.

Under international human rights law the rights to a remedy and reparations together form the right to redress. This right means that victims of violations of international law can not only seek justice through the courts and through other forms of investigation and mechanisms of accountability (remedies), but also should be assisted in overcoming the harm they have suffered (reparations) through measures such as restitution, compensation and rehabilitation.

According to international law, the responsibility for human rights violations and providing for the process of redress lies with the state. The details of what adequate redress entails can be found in the United Nations Resolution concerning the *Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation*, as well, in the special case of torture, in the new General

habilitation. Restitution refers to the return of property. Compensation means that victims should be granted funds to replace things that cannot be given back, such as their health, job, or emotional well-being. Satisfaction entails for example that the suffering of the victims should be publicly acknowledged, but can also mean that there is a public hearing or truth commission. Guarantees of non-repetition need to be publicly articulated by the state and need to express that the violation that occurred shall be prevented from occurring again (not only to the individual victim, but to all persons in that country).

Finally, the right to rehabilitation means that the survivors of human rights violations should be helped, medically, psychologically, as well as legally and socially, to regain all their physical, mental and social functions, which were lost or harmed through the violation.

Accordingly, the Jiyān Foundation provides exactly those rehabilitative services to which survivors of violations of international law are entitled, by helping them regain their physical and mental well-being through therapy and assistance as well as providing social help to prevent further violations from occurring.

By providing these services the Jiyān Foundation is helping Iraq meet its international human rights obligations, whilst helping survivors regain a dignified life. Especially concerning torture the UN Committee against Torture has clarified in its new General Comment that where the state itself cannot provide rehabilitative care, it can do so with the help of NGOs such as the Jiyān Foundation, by funding and protecting their work.

In order to continue with this and meet the needs of all victims of past atrocities however, NGOs such as the Jiyān Foundation need the support of the Government and authorities of Iraq in order to deliver justice to survivors jointly and in cooperation.

UN Committee against Torture

“The obligation in Article 14 to provide for the means for as full rehabilitation as possible can be fulfilled through the direct provision of rehabilitative services by the State, or through the funding of private medical, legal and other facilities, including those administered by NGOs in which case the State shall ensure that no reprisals or intimidation are directed to them.”

Comment issued by the UN Committee against Torture in December 2012.

The right to a remedy requires the state to ensure that any alleged violation of human rights is investigated and the victim has the possibility to take action through judicial (i.e. courts) or other adequate and appropriate mechanisms (i.e. human rights ombudsmen) to press for such an investigation. Further, should the individual perpetrators be found, that they are punished for committing the violations.

The right to reparations entails five elements, namely restitution, compensation, satisfaction, guarantees of non-repetition and, finally, re-

Soran Ali was born in Halabja in 1980. He survived the chemical attacks at the age of eight. His skinny appearance underscores his physical and emotional ordeal. Nevertheless, he feels the need to talk. Especially after the recent chemical attacks in Syria.*

“When I opened my eyes I realized they were all dead. Even the cat.”

* name changed

How do you remember the day of the chemical attacks?

In 1988 I lived in Halabja. There were military conflicts in the area and we had to stay at home. We were all hiding in one room, my parents and grandparents, my seven brothers and sisters and me. We heard bombs and noticed a strange smell. My mother hid me under her body. When I opened my eyes, I realized they were all dead. Even the cat.

I see the picture in front of me, as if it just happened yesterday. Something like that you only forget after you have died.

What happened to you next?

I stayed with my aunt, who had two children herself. She was a good woman, but the toxins had damaged her body and she died some years later.

My uncle was very strict with me. I was a poor student. I could not concentrate because of the nightmares. When I got bad grades, he hit me. However, I am grateful as well – it was only due to his pressure that I finished secondary school. But I couldn't go to university, because I was not feeling well.

How do you feel when you talk about it?

Starts crying. – Talking is like getting rid of a huge weight on my shoulders. But I remember everything. What shall I do, when I constantly see this picture in front of me? Sometimes I am with the family, my kids are playing and screaming and then the picture comes back. I experience this regularly. I have a lot of nightmares. My wife wants a third child, but I am afraid the poison affected my genes and it might be disabled.

How do you feel today, 25 years after the attacks?

I don't have appetite. The attack affected my lungs and I have asthma. I often gasp for breath

and it feels like dying. Every time the picture emerges, I wish for my death. When I am at the cemetery, I feel guilty because I should be there, too.

Once, on my way back after a memorial, I got out of the car and decided to commit suicide. I drove home and swallowed 200 pills. But my wife found me and took me to the hospital. My wife asked me: Do you want me to become a widow and your children orphans like you? This made me feel very guilty. She is a good woman.

What did you think when you heard about the chemical attack in Syria?

I saw the dead children on TV. I hugged my children and started crying. My wife was puzzled, but she understood. Then I told her, we have to leave this place. It was too close for me. Let us go to Erbil, I told her. There we stayed for one week.

During this week, I couldn't eat and hardly slept. All the pictures suddenly came back.

Why did you leave the city?

We Kurds do not yet have the possibility to protect ourselves. With a new Iranian-Syrian weapon they could attack and kill all of us. States like that are dangerous to the entire world, not only to Halabja and to us Kurds. We who are without protection will always be the victims. Do you remember? Back in 1988 not a single European state reported on the attacks on Halabja.

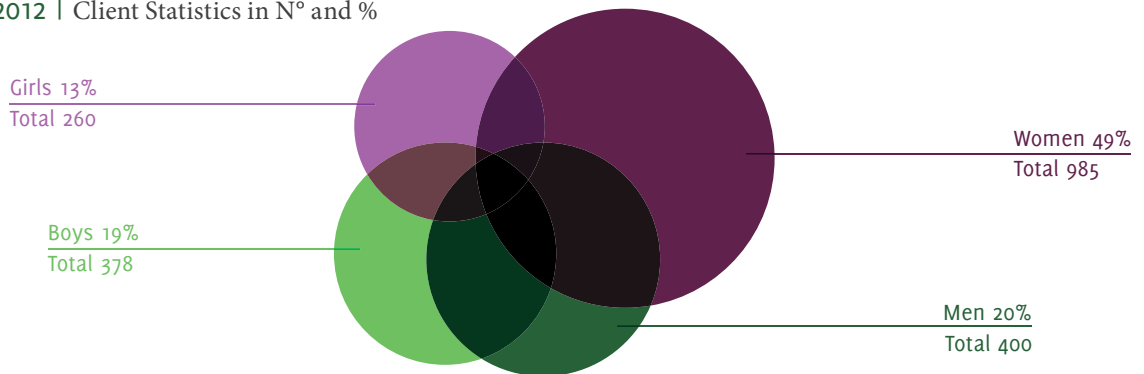
If the world keeps silent about Syria, soon Iran will launch as well. Assad has to be stopped. Most of all, I fear for my children.

What do you wish for your future?

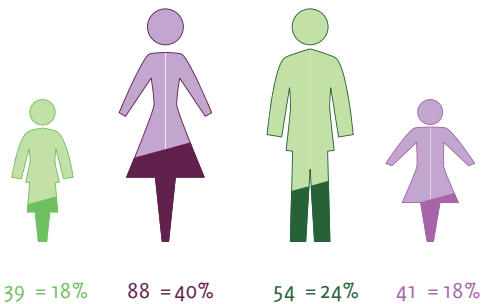
I wish that we could lead a normal life. I neither want money nor to be in need. I don't want to be afraid any longer. And I want my children and family to live without fear.

Facts & Figures

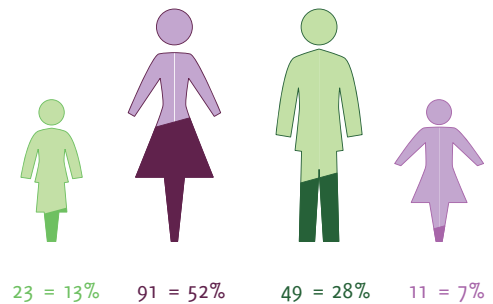
All Centers 2012 | Client Statistics in N° and %



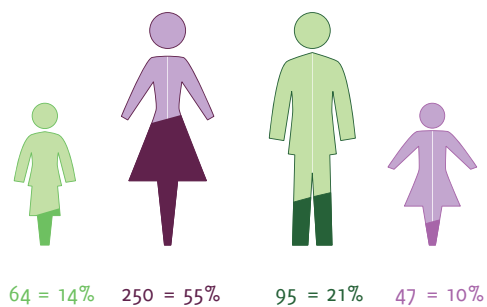
Kirkuk Center



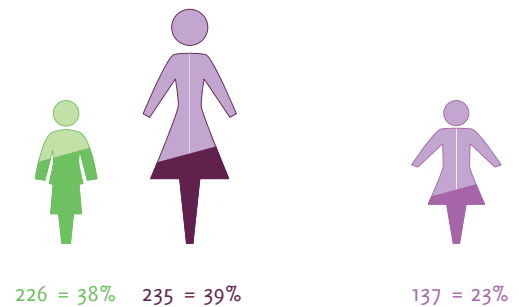
Sulaymaniyah Center



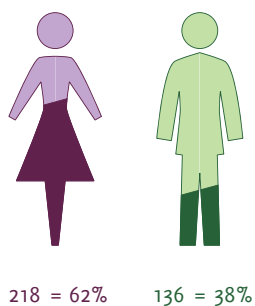
Erbil Center



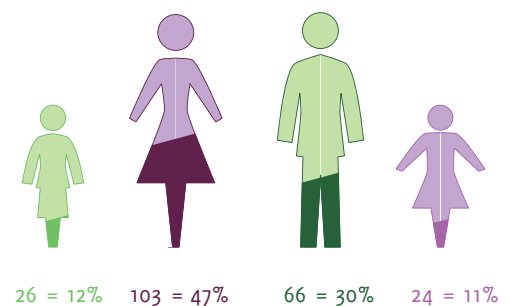
Chamchamal Center



Halabja Center



Duhok Center



Some Figures



About **1000 persons** attended seminars and lectures on human rights issues.

790 women attended self-help and empowerment groups.

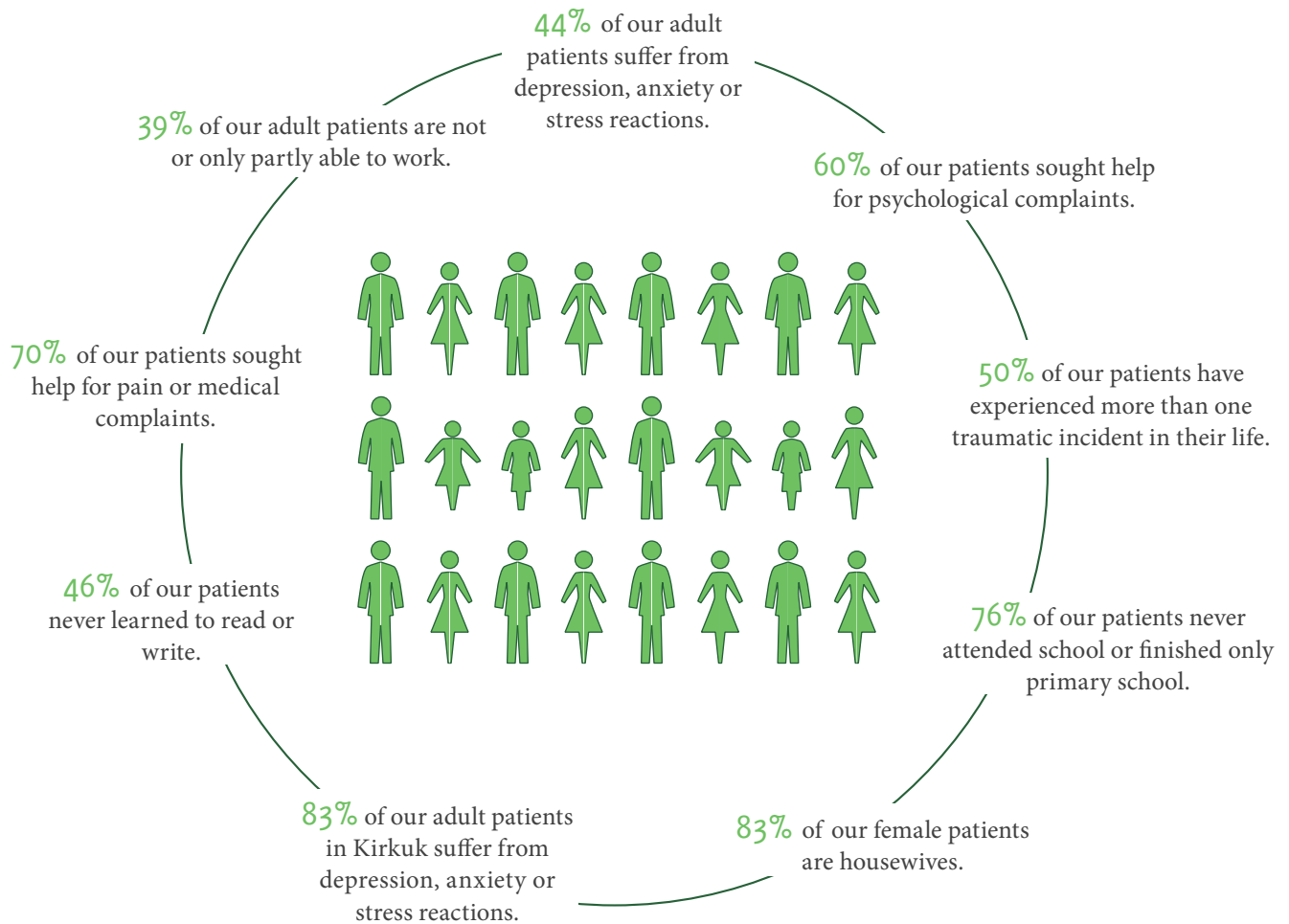
152 juvenile detainees received psychosocial counselling.

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

4562 students and pupils attended human rights education seminars in schools.

120 staff took part in ca. **400 hours** of training and supervision.

558 survivors living in rural areas received psychosocial care.



Team

Dr. Abdulkarim Khidhir Abbas Psychiatrist	Baida Abdulaziz Mirza Medical Doctor	Fakhir Mohammad Abbas Therapist	Hoazan Faraidoon Penjweni Therapist
Abobakr Omer Ismaiel Al-Salhi Physiotherapist	Bakhtiar Hadi Hassan Pedagogue	Farhang Muheden Ghafar Medical Doctor	Ibrahim Hama-Sa'ed Therapist
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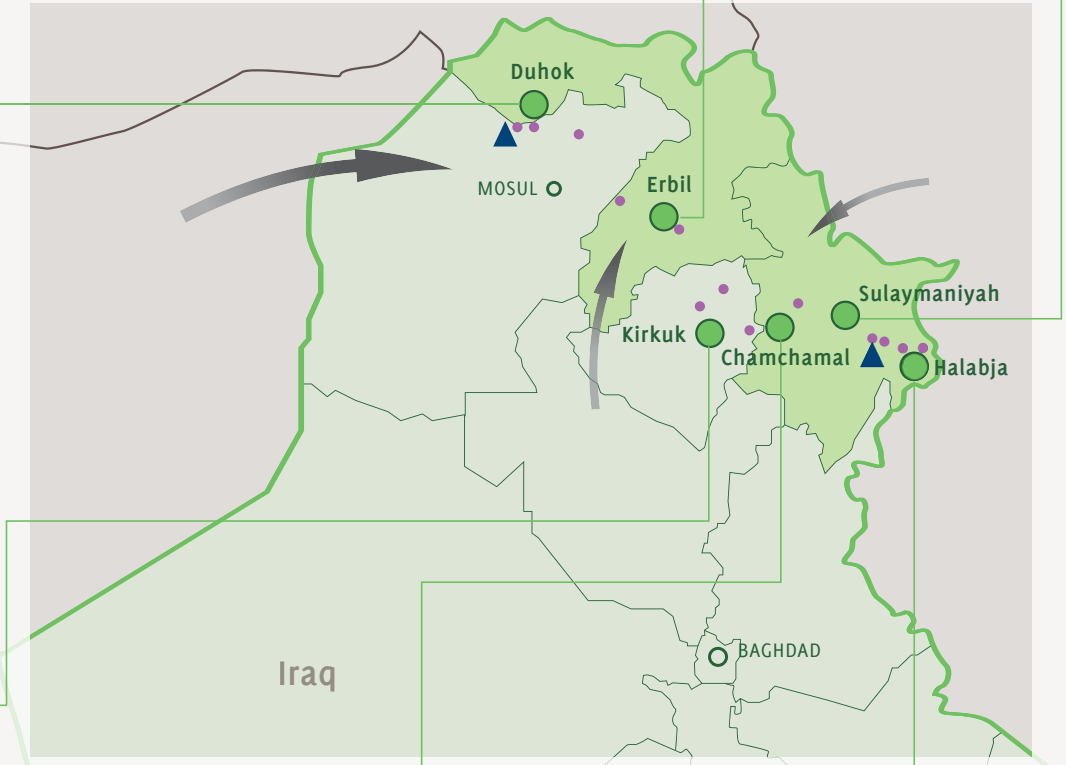
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	Branches
	Mobile Teams
	Refugee Camps
	Refugees
	Iraqi Kurdistan



40,000 km²
approximate area

36%



population aged
0-14 years



5,500,000
resident population



9
languages and
dialects spoken



2,000,000
Kurdish internally displaced
persons in 1991

20 years
median age

200,000 +
Syrian refugees hosted in 2013

74%
voter turnout in 2013



15
ethnic and religious minorities

Kurdistan-Iraq in Brief

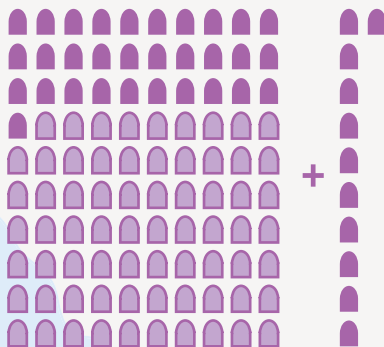
5000 BC 0 2000 AD
7000 years
continuous inhabitation of Erbil

1991 2013
1300 5000 +
public and private schools

1 30 +
universities and colleges

0 20 +
international diplomatic
representations

31% female parliamentarians



100 parliamentary seats 11 reserved for minorities

18
political parties
represented

Donors and Supporters

Governments



German Foreign Office



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



European Commission



Kurdistan Regional Government

Non-Governmental Organizations



Berlin Center for Torture Victims
ZENTRUM ÜBERLEBEN

Evangelisch-Lutherische
Kirche in Bayern



Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Bavaria



Foundation Wings of Hope



Misereor

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Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq (CAPNI)
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Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Fritzemeyer
Galawezh Foundation for Press
Halabja General Library
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Plan Company
Qaiwan Group
Trend Micro Give&Match
Wheelchairs for Kids Inc. Australia

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Forough Pourchi Kangarloo, Erbil

Advisors

Prof. Dr. Christine Gosden
Dr. Sepp Graessner
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Goran Adham, Mayor of Halabja
Health Directorate Kirkuk
Dr. Hunar Jaafer, General Director of Halabja Health Directorate
Iraqi Institute of Political Prisoners
Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Chamchamal
Kurdistan Institute of Political Prisoners
Louis Raphaël I Sako, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Babylon
Mayor and City Council of Hesar District
Mayor of Qerehencir District
Mayor of Shwan District
Ministry of Health, Erbil
Mr. Mujeeb Mohamed, Director Kirkuk Office of Human Rights Iraq
Dr. Nizar Ismat, Health Director of Duhok Governorate
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)
Dr. Rekawt Hama Rasheed, Minister of Health, Erbil
Shirwan Hama, Director of Shahid Fatih Hospital, Halabja
Shoraw Hospital, Kirkuk
The team of Shwan Secondary and Tertiary School

Make a Difference

Your support allows us to restore the dignity of children, women and men whose lives have been shattered by violence. Each contribution, no matter how small, can make a difference in the life of an individual or a family.

How Your Donation Helps

Your **US\$ 5** will allow a traumatized mother without income to reach us by public transport to receive free-of-charge treatment.

Your **US\$ 25** will equip a young child living in a survivor family with toys and therapeutic material.

Your **US\$ 50** will enable us to provide an elderly survivor of genocide living in poverty with essential medicine, glasses or artificial dentures.

Your **US\$ 100** will allow a father who was tortured in prison to receive physiotherapeutic and orthopedic treatment.

Your **US\$ 500** will allow an entire refugee family from Syria to receive comprehensive medical and psychological rehabilitation.

How to Help

We are affiliated with the Sozialbank, the leading German bank for charitable organizations (www.sozialbank.de). You can donate online or via bank transfer.

Donation Account

Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims
Bank fuer Sozialwirtschaft Berlin
BIC/SWIFT: BFSWDE33BER
IBAN: DE14100205000003139601

Paypal

Donations can also be made through Paypal at paypal@jiyan-foundation.org

Betterplace

You may also make donations through www.betterplace.org/en/organisations/kirkuk-center.

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

Learn More

If you would like to find out more about ways of getting involved, we invite you to consult our website or get in touch with the European branch of the Jiyan Foundation:

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