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## **Entry Procedures and Residence in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) for Iraqi Nationals**

**Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Erbil, Sulemaniyah, Dahuk, KRI and Amman, Jordan**

***6 to 20 January and 25 February to 15 March 2010***

*Copenhagen, April 2010*

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## Overview of fact finding reports published in 2008, 2009 and 2010

Protection of victims of trafficking in **Nigeria**, Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Lagos, Benin City and Abuja, Nigeria, 9 – 26 September 2007  
2008: 1

Protection of victims of trafficking in **Ghana**, Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. February 25 to March 6 2008  
2008: 2

Recruitment of IT specialists from **India**, An investigation of the market, experiences of Danish companies, the attitude of the Indian authorities towards overseas recruitment along with the practices of other countries in this field. Report from the fact finding mission to New Delhi and Bangalore, India 4th to 14th May 2008  
2008: 3

Report of Joint British-Danish Fact-Finding Mission to Lagos and Abuja, **Nigeria**. 9 - 27 September 2007 and 5 - 12 January 2008  
2008: 4

Cooperation with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP). Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Abuja, **Nigeria**. 14 to 24 February 2009  
2009: 1

Security and Human Rights Issues in Kurdistan Region of **Iraq (KRI)**, and South/Central Iraq (S/C Iraq), Report from the Danish Immigration Service's (DIS), the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) and Landinfo's joint fact finding mission to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, KRI; and Amman, Jordan, 6 to 23 March 2009  
2009: 2

Honour Crimes against Men in Kurdistan Region of **Iraq (KRI)** and the Availability of Protection, Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Erbil, Sulemaniyah and Dahuk, KRI, 6 to 20 January 2010  
2010: 1

Entry Procedures and Residence in Kurdistan Region of **Iraq (KRI)** for Iraqi Nationals, Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Erbil, Sulemaniyah, Dahuk, KRI and Amman, Jordan, 6 to 20 January and 25 February to 15 March 2010  
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### Introduction and disclaimer

In March 2009 the Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Documentation and Research Division undertook a joint fact-finding mission to Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) with the Danish Refugee Council and Landinfo (Norwegian country of origin information unit).<sup>1</sup> Part of this mission was devoted to the subject of the situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in KRI and the availability of Internal Flight Alternative/Internal Relocation Alternative (IFA/IRA) from Government of Iraq (GoI) area and the disputed areas<sup>2</sup> to KRI. However, at the time the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could not provide the delegation with information on the availability of IFA/IRA as the agency had not yet published its guidelines on Iraq. These guidelines, 'UNHCR *Eligibility Guidelines*', were published in April 2009.<sup>3</sup>

In January 2010 the DIS, Documentation and Research Division undertook a fact-finding mission to Erbil, Sulemaniyah and Dahuk in the KRI. The mission took place from January 6 to 20, 2010. In February and March 2010 the DIS undertook an additional mission to Amman, Jordan and to Erbil and Sulemaniyah in KRI. This mission took place from February 25 to March 15, 2010. Among other issues the aim of the two missions was to gather updated information on the situation of IDPs, entry procedures and residence in KRI, and the availability of an IFA/IRA in KRI for Iraqis originating from South/Central Iraq (S/C Iraq) and the disputed areas. In addition, the delegation also gathered information on honour crimes against men in KRI and the availability of protection. These findings have been published in a separate report.<sup>4</sup>

The delegation to KRI and Jordan consulted representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), International Organization for Migration (IOM), an independent newspaper in KRI, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Government of Iraq (GoI) and UNHCR as well as a number of IDPs from the GoI area and the disputed areas. Furthermore the delegation consulted a local Mukhtar<sup>5</sup> from Erbil. The IDPs interviewed by the delegation were identified by UNHCR and this agency's Protection and Assistance Centers (PACs) which comprise the following NGOs: Public Aid Organization (PAO), Erbil, HARIKAR NGO, Dahuk, and Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah. In addition IOM identified two IDP families that had recently arrived in Erbil, KRI. In connection with the delegation's interview of these families the delegation also met with the sponsor/guarantor of

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<sup>1</sup> Danish Immigration Service, *Security and Human Rights Issues in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and South/Central Iraq (S/C Iraq), Report from the Danish Immigration Service's (DIS), The Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) and Landinfo's joint fact finding mission to Erbil and Sulemaniyah, KRI; and Amman, Jordan. 6 to 23 March 2009.* Copenhagen, July 2009.

<sup>2</sup> The disputed areas are parts of the Iraqi governorates bordering KRI. These areas comprise parts of Tameem (Kirkuk, Hawiga), Ninewa (Mosul), Salah Al-Din and Diyala (Khanaqin, Ba'quba) governorates.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Danish Immigration Service, *Honour Crimes against Men in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and the Availability of Protection, Report from the Danish Immigration Service's (DIS's) fact-finding mission to Erbil, Sulemaniyah and Dahuk, DRK, 6 to 20 January 2010, February 2010.*

<sup>5</sup> A Mukhtar is a neighbourhood representative who is responsible for keeping records of the residents in his local district(s).

one of the families. Finally, the delegation visited the Qalawa IDP-camp in Sulemaniyah. Interviews with IDPs and records of the visit to Qalawa camp are included as Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4. A complete list of all interlocutors is included at the end of this report.

All interlocutors consulted were informed that the delegation's mission-report would be a public document.

All interlocutors, except the IDPs consulted, were also informed that they would have their statements forwarded to them for corrections, comments and approval. Only one interlocutor, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, the person responsible for the KRG Mosul Checkpoint, did not wish to have the meeting notes forwarded for approval. Two interlocutors, General Gaywan Tawfeq, General Manager, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, and the chief editor of the Hawlati newspaper in Sulemaniyah did not respond to the notes that were forwarded for approval, despite being reminded. These two notes have been included as originally forwarded.<sup>6</sup> In addition CDO did not respond to the notes of March 2010 that were forwarded for approval, despite being reminded. The CDO notes have been included as originally forwarded. All interlocutors accepted to have their final statements included into the report at hand.

The meeting notes from Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW), Erbil, have been included only as an annex (see Annex 5) in the final report as statements given by KHRW on entry procedures and residence were incongruent. Despite efforts to seek clarification on the subject, the delegation did not receive a comprehensible response prior to the publishing of the report. However, statements from KHRW concerning trafficking and prostitution have been included in the report as there was no need for further clarification on these issues.

It should be noted that in a few cases the delegation (i.e. the authors of this report) found it necessary to carefully adjust or clarify phrases in some of the approved notes by adding minor supplementary explanations. These have been marked with a closed bracket [...].

The delegation to KRI and Jordan comprised Jens Weise Olesen, Chief Adviser and Vanessa Worsøe Ostenfeld, Regional Adviser, both Documentation and Research Division, DIS.

The report at hand is available on DIS's website: [www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk)

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<sup>6</sup> It was the delegation's impression that General Gaywan Tawfeq and the chief editor of the Hawlati newspaper were not particularly interested in having the meeting notes forwarded for approval.

### Summary

The following comprises key findings, i.e. conclusions that the delegation has drawn based on statements from all sources consulted with the exception of the UNHCR in Erbil and Amman (see below).

- Any Iraqi national with an Iraqi ID is free to enter KRI.
- Any Iraqi national is free to reside in KRI after registration at a local Asayish office in KRI.
- There is no demand for a sponsor/guarantor to be present at KRG Checkpoints in order for an Iraqi national to be allowed entry into KRI.
- The KRG regards Iraqi citizens from GoI, the disputed areas and KRI as Iraqi nationals, and thus they have access to KRI, citing that KRI is a part of Iraq.
- There are no accounts of Iraqi nationals, irrespective of religious or ethnic background, or place of origin in Iraq, being discriminated against at KRG Checkpoints or in KRI.
- There are no accounts of Iraqi nationals having been deported from KRI to GoI area or to the disputed areas.
- There are no accounts of Iraqi nationals having been denied entry at any KRG Checkpoint. However, Iraqi nationals who are registered on the so-called list of suspects (also called “Black List”) will not be permitted entry into KRI. Such persons will be arrested if they approach a KRG Checkpoint.
- The entry and identification procedures at KRG Checkpoints are solely for security purposes.
- Iraqi nationals wishing to stay for an extended period of time in KRI have to register at a local Asayish police office after entering KRI.
- Iraqi nationals wishing to stay for an extended period of time in KRI need a sponsor/guarantor.
- There are no accounts of Iraqi nationals having been deported from KRI to GoI area or to the disputed areas for not having a sponsor/guarantor.
- Although a sponsor/guarantor is legally responsible for the person he or she is sponsoring, there are no accounts of a sponsor/guarantor having been arrested or detained by KRG authorities.
- Iraqi nationals, including IDPs, in KRI have access to housing and employment.
- Iraqi nationals, including IDPs, in KRI have access to free public health and schooling.
- Iraqi nationals who have registered with the Asayish are free to move throughout KRI.
- KRG entry procedures are uniform in all three governorates of KRI.

The following include statements from UNHCR Erbil and Amman that differ noticeably from the above-mentioned key findings:

- KRG entry procedures are not applied in a uniform manner. Procedures for entry are not uniform in practice and there can be inconsistencies from one day to the next.
- Posing as a sponsor/guarantor is not something that one readily takes on without serious thought and the KRG Minister of Interior has warned UNHCR of the seriousness of posing as a sponsor/guarantor.
- Some persons of Arab origin, particularly individuals, may face greater scrutiny at entry checkpoints.
- UNHCR could not comment on whether or not persons not on the list of suspects could be denied entry in KRI, but stated that there are anecdotal reports of persons being denied entry, however precise numbers are not available.
- The former sponsorship system has been replaced with a reference system<sup>7</sup> and in practice this is similar in that it requires a non-Kurdish Iraqi to have a contact in the KRI.

The final and approved statements from all interlocutors, including UNHCR, Erbil and Amman are included in the report at hand.

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<sup>7</sup> It should be noted that during the mission the delegation did not come across the concept of a “reference system”.



## **1. IDPs in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)**

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, Bureau of Migration & Displacement (BMD)<sup>8</sup>, Ministry of Interior, Erbil, stated that the BMD constitutes the main office concerning displacement. BMD was established in 2009 and resorts under the Ministry of Interior. Persons of concern to BMD are returnees, IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers as well as stateless persons.

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that BMD's task is registration of IDPs and facilitation of returns. It was added that this procedure is uniform in all three governorates. The KRG supports the IDPs should they wish to return to their place of origin. Facilitation of voluntary return of IDPs takes place in cooperation with the GoI authorities in Baghdad.

After 2003, KRG has been able to secure the region [KRI] and is now working to democratize the region. There are approximately 87,500 families registered with BMD. Of these, 26,000 families are returnees from Iran who arrived after 1991. 1,669 families have come to KRI fleeing insecurity at the border areas of Turkey and Iran. Another 7,238 families have returned from Turkey, while 36,000 families have come to KRI from S/C Iraq because of insecurity. BMD has also registered 2,508 Kurdish families originating from Syria, Iran and Turkey who have sought refuge in KRI. It was added that BMD has registered approximately 2,000 Christian families, as well as 1,000 Yazidi families and 74 Sabean-Mandean families.

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that KRG tries to assist the IDPs in KRI to their best ability, both in legal and material matters. BMD has drawn up a plan for 2010 that it has sent to all NGO's and organizations that deal with IDP and refugee issues. It was added that in order to assist IDPs, as well as refugees, and address their needs, KRG needs additional assistance. BMD is independent of GoI with regard to issues related to IDPs [in KRI]. There is a government official from the GoI employed at the BMD office in Erbil. It was emphasized that the Ministry of Migration and Displacement of GoI has to provide funds for IDPs "because BMD does not have a budget and is unable to assist those IDPs" [in KRI].

According to Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, the GoI must assist KRG with a budget to address the needs of IDPs. BMD has repeatedly forwarded requests to the GoI in Baghdad asking for support in assisting IDPs, however to no avail. IDPs have security in KRI however, the material assistance KRG can provide them with is not much. BMD has in cooperation with World Food Programme (WFP) provided some IDPs with foodstuffs [as well as] some furniture. BMD has also distributed compensation forwarded from the GoI to IDPs from S/C Iraq. However, the GoI stopped sending funds to KRG for this purpose which resulted in BMD having to stop the distribution.

Finally, Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that he had been employed as Director of the BMD for three months. To his knowledge, BMD has not in the [three] month period received additional funds from the GoI allocated to IDPs in KRI.

The three NGOs Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah, Public Aid organization (PAO), Erbil, and HARIKAR NGO, Dahuk, are all implementing partners of UNHCR and manage

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<sup>8</sup> In 2009 the Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BMD) replaced the Directorate for Displacement and Migration (DDM).

UNHCRs Protection and Assistance Centers (PACs), thereby monitoring the situation of IDPs in KRI.

Atta M. Ahmad, Director and Bakhtiar A. Salih Coordinator, Protection and Assistance Center/Civil Development Organization (PAC/CDO), Sulemaniyah, explained that CDO has been an implementing partner of UNHCR since 2006. Part of CDO's work in cooperation with the UNHCR involves providing tents, medication and non-food items to IDPs and refugees. PAC/CDO also addresses social issues and has a team of lawyers that assists IDPs with regard to accessing relevant personal documents that they may need in KRI.

Mahdi M. Qadir, Manager and Fakhir Ibrahim, Coordinator, Protection and Assistance Center/Public Aid Organization (PAC/PAO), Erbil, considered the issue of the IDP compensation allocated by the GoI to IDPs in KRI as problematic. Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, explained that many IDPs had not received the compensation from the GoI which was supposed to be distributed by the KRG Bureau of Migration & Displacement (BMD). From the period February 2009 until June 2009 payments of 50% of the compensation amount were made to IDPs. However, as the GoI stopped forwarding funds for this purpose, the payments were halted. Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, added that many IDPs are dependent on their work salaries.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, explained that UNHCR would assist returns and added that the GoI would pay an amount to families returned to their place of origin from KRI. However, they informed that the payments from the GoI are not always available in such cases.

It was added that should an IDP wish to return to his or her place of origin, his or her file at the Asayish<sup>9</sup> office would be closed and a paper regarding one's stay in KRI would be issued to the person in question.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, stated that the situation of the IDPs in KRI is hard. He explained that persons without personal documents faced difficulties in obtaining their original documents in that such a person is required to go to his or her place of origin to acquire these. In addition, the GoI does not readily support the integration of IDPs in KRI, with reference to the fact that the GoI is not always willing to forward relevant documents to IDPs.

According to Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, the Bureau of Migration & Displacement (BMD) stopped registration of IDPs at the end of 2008.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, informed that the KRG stopped registering IDPs in February 2009 following a decision from the GoI on December 15, 2008 to stop registration of IDPs. Subsequently, the transfer of Public Distribution System (PDS) cards was also stopped.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Asayish refers the security forces of the KRG Security Directorate.

<sup>10</sup> See Section 4. Transfer of PDS cards.

## 2 Entry procedures at the KRG checkpoints

General Gaywan Tawfeq, General Manager, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Kurdistan Regional Security Protection Agency, Security General Directorate, Erbil, stated that he is responsible for all KRG checkpoints.

Anyone in possession of an Iraqi ID, a Jinsiya<sup>11</sup> (Nationality card) or an Iraqi passport would be able to enter KRI without any restrictions. An Iraqi not in possession of an Iraqi ID, a 'Jinsiya' or Iraqi passport would not be allowed to enter KRI at any checkpoint. It was emphasized that he had never heard of an Iraqi not in possession of an ID.

At least 10,000 persons are crossing the KRG checkpoints into KRI every day. The majority are persons seeking employment or medical treatment, or wishing to visit relatives or in search of security. Anyone who legally has passed a checkpoint is free to move about throughout the KRI.

When asked if the policy at the various KRG checkpoints is uniform in all three Northern Governorates General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that this is correct. Since December 1, 2008, there has been a standardized procedure at all KRG checkpoints.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Responsible for Mosul Checkpoint, Kurdistan Regional Security Protection Agency, Security General Directorate, Erbil, confirmed that there is a uniform procedure at all checkpoints for persons entering KRI from S/C Iraq and the disputed areas. This procedure is directed by General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that the entry procedure for Iraqis entering KRI is a two-step procedure. The first step involves the person's arrival at the checkpoint where he or she will be identified, photographed, his or her family relations registered, origin of residence, the reason for entering, his or her occupation as well as other relevant matters.

The next step comprises the issuing of a card stating the reason for entering as well as the permitted period of the stay. There are three different types of entry cards, more specifically a 'work card', a 'tourism card' and a card for those who wish to reside in KRI, called an 'information card for those who wish to reside in KRI'. See Annex 6: KRG entry procedure cards: tourism, work and 'information card for those who wish to reside in KRI'. The majority entering KRI request to stay in KRI for a few days or weeks.

When a family arrives at a KRG checkpoint, the wife would not be photographed. However, if a woman arrives on her own, she would be photographed. When asked if different procedures apply to individuals as opposed to families, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that the same procedures apply to everyone. It was added that any Iraqi entering KRI may bring along his or her family.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, found it impossible to believe that any person would arrive at a KRG checkpoint without any type of identification papers. Every Iraqi has an ID and/or a Jinsiya. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, emphasized that a person without any identification papers would be rejected.

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<sup>11</sup> Iraqi Nationality card in the form of a booklet.

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According to Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, access to the territory [KRI] by IDPs is complex, and there are variations in the implementation of entrance requirements at various border crossing points. It was added that the situation on the borders of KRI remains fragile, especially now, because of tensions over the disputed territories, which are a focus of instability and violence. The introduction of a scheme of joint checkpoints (managed by the KRI, GoI and US Armed Forces) has suffered setbacks and delays and is not fully implemented.

According to Ali A. Jihangear, Representative of the GoI Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) to KRI, Baghdad/Erbil, and Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, Bureau of Migration & Displacement (BMD), KRG, Erbil, all Iraqis entering KRI from S/C Iraq or from the disputed areas enjoy similar rights as any other citizen of KRI according to Iraqi law. It was emphasized that there is no longer a requirement or a need for any IDP or any other Iraqi entering KRI to have a sponsor/guarantor to enter or reside in KRI. The sponsor/guarantor requirement was lifted in early 2009.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that it is no longer a requirement for persons entering any of the three Governorates of KRI to have a sponsor or a guarantor in KRI. This policy was abolished as of December 1, 2008.

An international NGO (INGO), Erbil, stated an Iraqi citizen from S/C Iraq wishing to enter KRG does not need a sponsor or guarantor to be present at the entry point, i.e. a KRG checkpoint in order to be allowed entry.

An INGO, Erbil, further explained that its officer had personally observed that approximately a year ago there were some restrictions at the KRG checkpoints and there were individual cases of Iraqis needing a sponsor/guarantor in order to enter into KRG, as well as providing ID documents and explaining the purpose of one's entry at the KRG checkpoints, e.g. work, visit, stay or transit.

These requirements existed in a situation where security was an issue and when there was internal conflict or sectarian tensions in the center [central Iraq] and in Mosul territories. However, today there is no longer a requirement for a person entering KRG checkpoint to provide a sponsor/guarantor.

An INGO, Erbil, stated that for at least four months, its officer had personally observed that procedures at checkpoints have been very smooth and easy for persons entering, and since then there has been no demand for a sponsor/guarantor. Any Iraqi who wishes to enter into KRG needs only to fill in an entry card at the checkpoint stating their name, age, ID card number, purpose and duration of visit. This card will then be stamped by the checkpoint authorities, and upon leaving, the visitor will return the card originally given at the checkpoint.

An INGO, Erbil, explained that it did not know exactly when the requirement to have a sponsor/guarantor was lifted, and that according its officer's own observations there is no longer a requirement to provide a sponsor/guarantor in order to be allowed entry and stay in KRG.

Salah Y. Majid, Programme Coordinator and Hikmat Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, stated that previously some individuals who the KRG authorities deemed suspicious from a security point of view were required to have a sponsor/guarantor in KRI before being allowed entry to KRI. A sponsor/guarantor was responsible for him or her and was required to pose as sponsor/guarantor

until the individual got his own security clearance. It was added that families wishing to enter KRI were not required to have a sponsor/guarantor in order to be allowed entry and residence.

However, the sponsor/guarantor requirement was lifted in early 2009 and there is no longer a sponsor/guarantor requirement for Iraqis wishing to enter and reside in KRI. The lifting of the sponsor/guarantor requirement was partly due to discussions with GoI as well as tribal leaders in Iraq and partly due to an improved security situation in KRI.

During the delegation's meeting with PAC/HARIKAR, Salah Y. Majid called the Manager of Dahuk Checkpoint who stated that Iraqis from S/C Iraq or the disputed areas are not required to provide a sponsor/guarantor. A person fills in a form including personal information at the checkpoint and within a week the form can be renewed and extended at the local Asayish office for either a specified period of time or permanently.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that in 2005 up until 2007, the KRG authorities required that any Iraqi person or family wishing to enter KRI had to provide a sponsor/guarantor at the KRG Checkpoint in order to be allowed entry. The sponsor/guarantor was to be present at the checkpoint and had to be a KRG government employee. Fulfilling this specific requirement was difficult for many Iraqis coming from outside KRI which was eventually recognized by the KRG authorities. Therefore the procedure at KRG Checkpoints was changed in December 2008, and Iraqis now wishing to enter KRI do not need to provide a sponsor/guarantor in order to be allowed entry.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that since the beginning of 2009, there has not been any requirement to provide a sponsor/guarantor in order to enter KRI.

Currently families or persons coming for a short period of time, e.g. for tourism or work, go through a simple security procedure at the checkpoint, presenting their ID and providing their personal information to the security at the checkpoint, and then receive a temporary tourism card or work card which is valid for the period of time they are in KRI. If they have a vehicle with them, registration papers are given to the checkpoint and a form stating the vehicle can move freely in KRI is provided to the owners of the vehicle. The procedures at the KRG Checkpoints are fairly smooth and only take 10-15 minutes.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, stated that in 2008, any Iraqi wishing to enter KRI had to have a sponsor/guarantor at the KRG Checkpoint in order to be allowed entry. However over a year ago, this requirement to have a sponsor/guarantor in order to enter KRI was lifted, and any Iraqi coming from outside KRI is free to enter. It was added that Iraqis generally enter KRI either to stay, usually bringing their families, or for tourism or for the purpose of work.

Checkpoint procedures for Iraqis who are staying in KRI for a short period, either for work or tourism, are that they receive a small form, i.e. a work card or tourism card, at the KRG Checkpoint which is returned to the checkpoint upon leaving KRI.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that families and individuals wishing to live in KRI are required to provide a sponsor/guarantor.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil confirmed that if Iraqis wish to stay in KRI, they are required to provide a sponsor/guarantor for security reasons. It was

emphasized that the requirement for a sponsor/guarantor is purely related to security issues and serves the purpose of keeping KRI safe from terrorists or insurgents (see Section 4: KRG security measures).

Iraqis who have fled from violence and insecurity in S/C Iraq and the disputed areas will be free to enter at any KRG Checkpoint where they will be provided with an entry card. Within a week these IDPs will have to go to the local Asayish office and present their entry card as well as their Iraqi ID, to be issued an 'information card' by the Asayish Headquarters Office in Erbil, Dahuk or Sulemaniyah. It was added that there is also an Asayish office issuing 'information cards' in Soran.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, informed that should a person be an IDP that fled S/C Iraq or the disputed areas for some reason, he or she would not be denied entry. The IDP would be assisted, identified and permitted to enter KRI. It was added that when groups of people are fleeing violence in the disputed areas, this would be known to the KRG checkpoints and they would act accordingly. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that it is not every day that such incidents occur. If persons are fleeing fighting or the like, the KRG will assist them.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that he assumed that persons in search of safety would ask for an 'information card for those who wish to reside in KRI' in order to stay in KRI. He added that his responsibility was limited to the entry into KRI and that he did not handle what happened once inside the KRI. However, he emphasized, the card given at the checkpoint, was a key to staying in KRI.

When asked if there is a specific procedure for persons considered IDPs or refugees, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that such persons would pass through the normal procedure at the checkpoint.

An INGO, Erbil, explained that there have been situations of displacement movements from S/C Iraq or from the disputed areas, and families and larger groups affected will always be given opportunity to enter and stay in KRG.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that although some displacement still occurs in Iraq, entry to KRI is not necessarily granted to persons presenting themselves as IDPs at checkpoints and seeking entry to the KRI on these grounds.

In general, those who are newly entering KRI are interviewed and asked for their reason for entering the region. They provide their personal and car documents, telephone numbers and addresses, and the details of their relatives, contact or employer in KRI. They are photographed electronically. On occasions the checkpoint officers will call the relative, contact or employer however, they rarely asked them to go to the checkpoint unless there is particular suspicion or if the person is driving a truck.

Families who come to KRG for tourism or visiting a relative, receive a tourism card at the checkpoint valid for 10 days. They do not need to have a sponsor/guarantor. The checkpoint retains one document (either car or personal document) in exchange for the tourism card. After the 10 days, when they return, they have to hand over the tourism card to receive back their personal/car document. 'Work cards' a rarely used by families.

The ‘card for residing’ (literally translated ‘information card for those interested in living’) is for families who would like to stay for longer than 10 days. However, most families enter first with tourism card until they rent a house and complete other procedures. Nevertheless, for issuing the “card for residing”, the same information is required. There is no need for a guarantor or sponsor at the checkpoint; therefore no finger print is given although there is a place on the card for this purpose. Instead those entering give their own finger print. At the checkpoint, the family is informed that they must approach the nearest security office to where they are staying within 10 days; although the written instruction on the card is to report within 24 hours.

Families wishing to enter KRI face few problems unless the name of one of the members is black listed for security reasons [i.e. is on the list of suspects]. See also Section 4: KRG security measures.

Very few single individuals come as tourists, unless with tour companies or visiting close relatives; The same procedure applies to them as to the families except, the checkpoint must know who is the relative and where the individual visitor is going to stay. On occasion, if there is suspicion or doubt, the checkpoint officer will ask the relative to present himself at the checkpoint.

The majority of individuals entering KRI come as workers, and they are allowed to enter through the provision of a ‘work card’ with 10 days validity. There is no need for a guarantor or sponsor. Most are daily or construction workers, entering and departing on a daily or weekly basis. After 10 days, the worker has to exchange the ‘work card’ at the same checkpoint to receive a new one.

It is rare for an individual to be given the ‘card for residing’ at the checkpoints, in fact UNHCR understands that almost no individuals receive them. Instead, the system of obtaining a 10 day ‘work card’, extended with the support of an employer’s reference to three months is used.

### **2.1. Visit to the KRG Mosul Checkpoint**

During its meeting with General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, it was suggested that the delegation consulted the manager of any checkpoint of its own choice. The delegation decided to visit the KRG Mosul Checkpoint, and a meeting was therefore immediately arranged by General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, at the Mosul Checkpoint with Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Responsible for Mosul Checkpoint, Kurdistan Regional Security Protection Agency, Security General Directorate, Erbil.

The delegation was given a tour of the Mosul Checkpoint by Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, and its facilities during which the different procedures were explained and demonstrated. Outside the checkpoint a number of casual labourers were waiting to pass through into KRI. There were cues for persons entering on foot and cues for persons entering in vehicles, including one for KRI registered vehicles. A separate area was assigned trucks carrying provisions wishing to enter, as they undergo a separate procedure to verify the purpose of their entry. Upon entering into the checkpoint facility, persons wishing to enter are required to address the officials at the different stalls and pass through the checkpoint procedure which involves identification, registration as well as stating the purpose of one’s entry into KRI before finally being allowed entry.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained during the delegation’s tour of the facilities that after the name check, a picture is taken of the person and his or her personal details are registered in the computer system at the checkpoint. This information includes name,

family name, contact number, place of origin. He further explained that after registration, he or she goes to the appropriate counter to obtain a card for entering. There are three different types of entry cards, more specifically a 'work card', an 'information card for those who wish to reside in KRI', and a 'tourism card'. Finally, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained, the card is marked with official stamps. Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, demonstrated that there are three different official stamps according to which type of card is given. He confirmed that a person entering, that wishes to stay in KRI for a longer period of time, receives an entry card at the checkpoint and subsequently contacts the local Asayish office where he or she resides to obtain a permit for a longer stay.

When asked if persons entering for work purposes need a contract in order enter, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that this is not necessary. He explained that some persons enter as labourers who on a daily basis find work inside KRI.

It was stated that no person is allowed entry without an Iraqi ID. Only very rarely does it occur that a person presents him- or herself without identification. Some of these cases regard persons who have forgotten their Iraqi ID. A person without an Iraqi ID will be denied entry, but this occurs at the most once a month.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, was not aware of the exact number of persons who pass through the Mosul Checkpoint, but stated that this was a high number. He stated that on a quiet day like a Friday, 2-3,000 persons pass through the checkpoint. He added that alone on New Year's Day about 30,000 persons passed through this particular checkpoint.

Finally, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that the procedure at the checkpoint consists of a check which can take from 5 to 15 minutes.

### **3. Registration and residence in KRI**

It should be noted that the delegation to KRI was unable to obtain any laws or regulations that could document a unified entry and residence procedure throughout the three governorates in KRI.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, explained that UNHCR have not been able to obtain the text of any applicable laws, regulations or circulars that document required procedures within KRI, and accordingly, UNHCR have to make a disclaimer that information provided is drawn on observation as well as oral advice from counterparts and statements by persons of concern to UNHCR.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that persons who wish to stay in the KRI for an extended period will have to contact the local Asayish office in the area where the person intends to stay. The Asayish will then register the details of the person. Typically a person is permitted to stay for a year. This permission is subsequently extended on a yearly basis. It was added that all three Governorates have a standardized policy on residence.

When asked if the policy of entry and residence in KRI is based on uniform regulations or laws, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that all entry and residence procedures are laid down by the Asayish.



Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, explained that IDPs do not need to register in KRI and whether or not an IDP is registered is irrelevant. Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, confirmed that if an IDP wishes to stay in KRI or move within KRI, he or she contacts an Asayish office to be registered. They explained that a resident of the KRI does not have to register at an Asayish office if he or she moves residence within KRI. They added that this procedure was related to security matters.

Concerning a permit to reside in KRI, Salah Y. Majid, Program Coordinator, and Hikmat Omer Qadir, Manager, Protection and Assistance Center/HARIKAR NGO (PAC/HARIKAR), Dahuk, added that only registration at the Asayish office is necessary for IDPs. They explained that foreigners are issued a document for proof of residency permit but that Iraqi nationals do not need to be issued separate cards. All IDPs have to register at an Asayish office in their place of residence, however there is no separate ID for being a resident in KRI.

Salah Y. Majid and Hikmat Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, explained that an actual application for permanent residency in KRI is unnecessary as KRI is part of Iraq. Every Iraqi has the right to live in KRI, irrespective of his or her ethnic or religious affiliation.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, informed that after two to three years a person has the option to apply for a transfer of his or her registration to the KRI, thereby making [official] residency in KRI permanent. However General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that not many people actually do this as the process is complicated and unnecessary. A person wishing to apply for a transfer of permanent residency to the KRI has to apply to a court in his or her city of residence which can issue a document used by the local registration office in KRI to access a person's registration papers from his or her place of origin. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that all IDPs entering KRI are Iraqi citizens and very few ever apply for a transfer of residence.

When asked how long an IDP can stay before having to approach a local Asayish office in KRG to get an extension, an INGO, Erbil, explained that an IDP is likely to be interested in going to the local Asayish office and registering as soon as possible for securing his or her situation. An IDP might also wish to approach the BDM as soon as possible for any assistance BDM can provide or for obtaining access to compensation that may be allocated to IDPs.

Any Iraqi who has entered KRG will by registering at the local Asayish office and receive a document which he or she could be required to present when buying a car or renting a house. For example a man selling a car to another person not originating from KRG, may ask to see the document from Asayish which serves a proof that this is a person that has been accepted by KRG to reside in KRG. The document issued at the Asayish is also a proof that the person in question has been identified by the authorities.

An INGO, Erbil, stated that it does not know if persons that approach Asayish in order to extend their stay or to make their stay in KRG permanent are required to have a sponsor/guarantor.

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, explained that earlier, there were cases of persons entering KRI who were required to know someone from KRI. They elaborated that they had heard of two or three cases in 2009 of this sort. As an example of this, they pointed to a case involving an Arab man, who wanted to stay in KRI. The Asayish office however requested that the

man refer to an acquaintance in KRI which he did not have. It was added that the Arab man, who was originally from Baghdad, had lived in Jordan for the past 16 years prior to entering KRI.

### 3.1. 'Information cards' and the sponsor/guarantor requirement

According to Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, after entry those wishing to stay more than 10 days request permission from KRG security; instead of receiving residence permits as in the past, visitors carry 'information cards'.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, Erbil, stated that ordinary Iraqis wishing to stay and settle in KRI will also at the KRG Checkpoint receive a card upon entering and will be instructed by the Asayish at the checkpoint to approach a local Asayish office where they intend to take up residence. At the local Asayish office, a family or person must present his or her Iraqi ID card, PDS card, a recommendation letter from the Mukhtar<sup>12</sup> of his or her neighbourhood providing information of address. Additionally, families or persons must have a sponsor/guarantor (see also Section 4.4.: Sponsor/guarantor: Responsibilities), who is resident in the governorate in order to be issued an 'information card' by the Asayish Headquarters Office in Erbil, Dahuk or Sulemaniyah. This is done by presenting a guarantee letter to the Asayish Headquarters Office signed by the sponsor/guarantor. It was emphasized that the sponsor/guarantor does not need to be present at the Asayish Headquarters Office.

The guarantee letter is a form available at any local Asayish office. According to an unofficial translation the guarantee letter reads "I, xxx, with the address below, present myself as a guarantor for this family. Anytime if it is required I will provide them to your office, vice versa. I will take all the responsibility according to the law. For this reason I will sign below." Full name, date of birth, telephone number, occupation, address as well as a copy of Iraqi ID is to be stated on the letter as well.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, Erbil, further explained that the requirement for a sponsor/guarantor is purely for security reasons and that once all these documents are presented, a person is issued an 'information card' by the Asayish General Headquarters Office in Erbil, Dahuk or Sulemaniyah which has the authorization to issue the 'information cards'. With an 'information card' one can move freely throughout KRI without having to fill out other forms for entry in other governorates. Additionally, the 'information card' is used in government offices and as an ID throughout KRI. 'Information cards' have been issued since 2007 and are renewed yearly. Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, emphasized that the procedure for issuance of 'information cards' is uniform throughout KRI. However, it was added that in Sulemaniyah governorate, the 'information card' does not have an expiry date but is open-ended.

Prior to 2007, a residency card was issued to Iraqis from outside KRI. However, after some criticism was voiced against this procedure by Iraqi officials who believed that KRG perceived

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<sup>12</sup>IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that IOM has a close cooperation with the Mukhtars who are chosen by the local authorities. The Mukhtar is often the first filter that the IOM goes through with regards to the IDPs that arrive in KRI. With reference to the recent displacement in late February 2010 from Mosul of Christian families, the Mukhtar informed the IOM of new families arriving in Ainkawa and IOM was able to assist accordingly.

outsiders to KRI as non-Iraqis, the procedure was changed. Today, only foreigners are issued the residency cards.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, added that earlier ‘information cards’ were not issued but persons were merely given approval by Asayish. Now with the issuance of ‘information cards’, these are also useful as IDs in different government offices.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil explained that entry to KRI and staying for up to 10 days is permissible through cards issued at the checkpoints. Thereafter, families have to approach the neighborhood security office and provide ID photos, copies of personal documents such as civil ID card, PDS and marriage certificate, as well as a letter of certificate from [the] neighbourhood Mukhtar and a copy of the house rent agreement. A guarantee letter issued by Civil Affairs Court (also known of Court of First Instance) is also required. This is obtained by finding a [sponsor]/guarantor who is a resident of Erbil, (he does not necessarily need to be a government employee as in the past) who goes to the court with the head of the family and certifies that he is the family’s [sponsor]/guarantor.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, informed that if a member of the family, particularly the head of the family, has a letter of certificate from a well established employer such as a government office or institution, humanitarian organization, embassy, or international company, the family does not need to have a personal [sponsor]/guarantor.

When all the required information is provided to the neighborhood security office, the ‘information card’ is issued to the family by the same neighborhood security office. Thus, the family can live, work and move in KRI for one year.

After 12 months, the family should approach the same security office with the same [sponsor]/guarantor. The [sponsor]/guarantor does not need to go to the court again but he does have to sign at the same neighborhood security office reiterating that he is [sponsor]/guarantor of the family. A new guarantee letter issued by the court is required if the [sponsor]/guarantor changes.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, Erbil explained that earlier, the sponsor/guarantor had to be a government employee, and the guarantee letter was issued at the Erbil Notary Office. However this requirement was lifted in 2008 as it was evident that many persons had difficulties finding sponsors/guarantors that fulfilled this condition. Currently, the sponsor/guarantor has only to be a resident in the governorate in which the ‘information card’ is issued. Additionally, the guarantee letter is not issued at the Erbil Notary Office but simply filled out at the local Asayish office. Thus, the courts are no longer involved in the issuing of the guarantee letter.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, explained that families or persons wishing to reside in KRI approach the Asayish office in the area where they take up residence upon entering KRI in order to obtain an ‘information card’. It was added that a person residing in KRI is not able to rent out his house to a person who does not have security clearance [from Asayish]. Therefore a person wishing to live in KRI approaches the Asayish office in his or her local area.

At the local Asayish office, an Iraqi is required to present his or her ID documents, PDS card and a letter from the local Mukhtar where he or she resides as well as other personal information. The Asayish inquires about the purpose of one’s application for ‘information card’. Additionally, a

person wishing to obtain an ‘information card’ is required to present a sponsor/guarantor to the Asayish. The sponsor/guarantor accompanies one to the local Asayish office for this purpose and a document is filled out which states who the sponsor/guarantor is and that he or she is responsible for the person sponsored. After all relevant information is given and documents are provided, the case is filed and it is sent to the General Directorate of Asayish, i.e. the Asayish Head Quarters Office for final approval and issuance of the ‘information card’. If a family applies for an ‘information card’, all family members over the age of 18 will be issued a card. The ‘information card’ is valid for one year. IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, added that according to a new instruction from Asayish, only the head of a family is required to approach the Asayish in order to get his or her family’s ‘information cards’ renewed.

An INGO, Erbil, explained that what is important is that there is “no misunderstanding” between a person and the personnel at an Asayish office. An Iraqi person from outside KRG may not speak Kurdish and therefore it might be convenient to bring someone from the area that speaks Kurdish to the office in order to reduce confusion.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that it had never heard of IDPs being discriminated against by KRG authorities. In the beginning when IDPs started coming to KRI, there were some difficulties due to language barriers between Arabic-speaking IDPs and for example Asayish officers. However, to avoid misunderstandings the Asayish officers who handle cases regarding ‘information cards’ are now required to have Arabic language skills as this procedure for applying for an ‘information card’ is important.

### **3.1.1. Particular issues related to individuals vs. families**

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that it can be problematic for an individual rather than a family to obtain the annual ‘information card’ unless the person is a university teacher, doctor, engineer, lawyer or businessman. In such cases, they are able to follow the same procedures as applied to the families.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, explained that an individual who finds longer-term work with a formal employer such as a company or hotel has to approach the security office in the neighborhood where he lives with a letter or certificate from the employer. This is considered as a sponsorship. He is given a one-time, three-month extension by stamping the same ‘work card’ received at the checkpoint. After three months, when the extension is over, the individual should leave KRI, or at least report to the checkpoint, to receive a new 10-day ‘work card’, with which he would have to follow the extension procedure.

An INGO, Erbil, explained that families wishing to stay in KRG will not be faced with any problems from the authorities concerning extension of residence. However, with individuals who are single, especially single men, KRG authorities want to be certain that they do not pose a security threat.

When asked how KRG does this, an INGO, Erbil, explained that a single man will be allowed entry and when he comes to Erbil, he might stay with friends or relatives. After a while, he might find it necessary to go to Asayish and register for different reasons, applying for a job, renting a house etc. However, a man who may not have any friends or relatives in KRG may find himself having to go to a hotel for accommodation. However, the hotel may ask for documentation that a guest is

registered and approved with Asayish, therefore such a person will approach Asayish as soon as possible. Basically, the documentation and approval from Asayish is evidence that a person is “good” person, i.e. that he or she does not pose a security risk and that he or she will pay the hotel bill.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, considered that it could be difficult for single persons that do not have friends, relatives or acquaintances in KRI to provide a sponsor/guarantor that would enable issuance of an ‘information card’. Individuals who do not have a sponsor/guarantor will not be issued an ‘information card’.

It was emphasized that it is very unlikely that an Iraqi cannot find a sponsor/guarantor and he had never heard of cases where a family or person was unable to find a sponsor/guarantor. Every Iraqi knows someone and it is impossible to think of any Iraqi arriving in KRI without having a relative, a friend or an acquaintance in the region.

However, should this be the case and the person is unable to find a sponsor/guarantor he or she will have his or her case filed at the Asayish anyway. Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, stated the person will finally find a sponsor/guarantor, either in Erbil, Dahuk or Sulimaniyah.

A person wishing to stay in KRI for up to one month will simply be registered at the KRG Checkpoint and given a card for entry and will be permitted to stay for the period, however without being issued an ‘information card’. If he or she finds a sponsor/guarantor, such a person can be issued an ‘information card’.

It was added that the Asayish does not as a rule issue ‘information cards’ to single persons without relatives but mainly to families. Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, explained that the term single refers to persons arriving on their own, i.e. without relatives, friends or acquaintances in KRI. However, between 10% and 15% of individuals in KRI without families, friends or acquaintances are being issued ‘information cards’ on the basis of their professions, e.g. university professors, medical doctors, and other persons with an advanced degree.

An individual coming to KRI will be allowed entry at the KRG checkpoint where he or she will be given a card for entry which consequently is renewed at the same checkpoint. The card is typically renewed on a monthly basis. Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, informed that a person cannot be denied renewal of a card, only if he or she is on the suspects list, i.e. the “Black List”. After continual renewal, e.g. after a year, an individual may be able to have an ‘information card’ issued.

The ‘information card’ serves as a kind of security clearance therefore they are not readily issued to any individual who enters KRI. Individuals are potentially posing a larger threat against security than families. Terrorist and insurgents do not try to enter KRI together with their families, relatives or friends. However, individuals who have good friends, relatives or an acquaintance in KRI will be able to obtain an ‘information card’.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that any family as well as any individual with a sponsor/guarantor will be issued ‘information card’ and thus be able to stay in KRI. Sometimes companies can act as sponsors/guarantors for individuals who may not have any other network in KRI.

### 3.2. Variations in entry procedures and residency in KRI

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that UNHCR has observed that there appear to be variations in practice and procedures regarding both entry and residency in different governorates although the Office has not, to date, been able to obtain or identify a written source for such regulations or guidelines.

For IDPs staying in KRI, the use of the ‘information card’ is inconsistent between governorates. Erbil requires annual renewal for new IDPs, Sulaymaniyah has an open end system while Dahuk requires reporting to the Asayish but no ‘information card’. Similarly, procedures for transfer of PDS cards and the limitations on purchasing property vary.

#### 3.2.1. Erbil Governorate

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that in Erbil, new arrivals are required to renew ‘information cards’ monthly.

The transfer of [official] registration to Erbil can be complex and may be influenced by political factors as well as ethnicity. The transfer of registration (complete dossier including PDS) to Erbil involves bureaucratic procedures in addition to security clearance and the approval of Ministry of Interior of the KRG. An individual of Kurdish origin who has been displaced from Baghdad may reportedly experience fewer difficulties than such a person whose residence has been in an area in the disputed border areas. UNHCR has observed that, albeit a lack of written regulations, nonetheless in practice, registration requirements may be more onerous for persons of other ethnicities, such as Arabs. Such persons may be able to transfer their complete dossiers, including the PDS card, if they are able to obtain ministerial sponsorship related to a special skill, or proof of Kurdish family links.

#### 3.2.2. Dahuk Governorate

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that in Dahuk ‘information cards’ are not required by IDPs.

UNHCR Field Office, Dahuk, explained that IDPs may enter Dahuk Governorate in KRI irrespective of ethnic or religious background. Some recent arrivals may be eligible for assistance from local authorities and international organizations based on individual needs assessment. IDPs are permitted to stay in Dahuk Governorate and may generally access services including health and education. They may work, move freely throughout KRI and have the right to own property.

According to UNHCR Field Office, Dahuk, ‘information cards’ are issued in Dahuk Governorate for asylum seekers and refugees [only], but IDPs are not required to have these cards. All IDPs have to register at an Asayish office in their place of residence however, there is no separate ID required for Iraqis resident in Dahuk Governorate.

An application for permanent residency in Dahuk is unnecessary as KRI is deemed by local authorities to be “part of Iraq”, with the implication that any Iraqi may reside in KRI, irrespective of ethnic or religious affiliation, provided that applicable procedures are followed. There have been no reported instances of deportation or expulsion of IDPs from Dahuk Governorate.

With regard to Yazidis, Salah Y. Majid and Hikmat Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, informed that this ethnic group originates from Dahuk, and parts of Mosul and these areas make up their “homeland”.

### 3.2.3. Sulemaniyah Governorate

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that in Sulemaniyah, the ‘information card’ is valid for an indefinite period.

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah, observed that IDPs entering Sulemaniyah are no longer required to obtain a sponsor/[guarantor] prior to entry but must register at both a local Asayish office and with the local Mukhtar. At the border, persons entering Sulemaniyah are searched prior to entry and some, deemed by the authorities to be “suspicious” may be denied entry.

IDPs seeking long-term residence are required to register with the local Kurdish Police Force or Asayish. The Asayish office issues ‘information cards’ which include information on occupation, name of family members, dates of birth as well as photos and place of origin. IDPs are required to re-register with the KRG police when moving from Sulemaniyah to either Erbil or Dahuk. Previously permits to stay were renewed every three or six months and a new ‘information card’ was issued. ‘Information cards’ in Sulemaniyah are now issued with unlimited validity. Persons intending to return to their places of origin are required to submit the ‘information card’ to the Asayish and should also obtain permission for the transportation of movable property.

According to UNHCR Field Office Sulemaniyah, the majority of IDPs in the area are of Arab, Muslim, (both Sunni and Shia) origin. The Office has not recorded the presence of any IDPs in Sulemaniyah of Kaka’i, Sabean-Mandean or Yazidi affiliation and has observed that persons of the Yazidi Faith tend to move towards Dahuk because of its proximity to Mosul.

Atta M. Ahmed, Director General, Renas J. Hassan, Programme Officer/Women Health Programme and Kosar Salih, Lawyer, Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah, stated that any Iraqi citizen in possession of an Iraqi ID can enter into the governorate of Sulemaniya via a KRG Checkpoint, and he or she is not required to have a sponsor to be allowed entry.

According to Atta M. Ahmed, Renas Hassan and Kosar Salih (CDO), Sulemaniyah, previously there was a requirement that Iraqis from outside KRI wishing to work or live permanently in Sulemaniyah Governorate had to have a sponsor/guarantor in order to do so. A sponsor/guarantor was responsible for the person and would in case of any conflict with the law involving the person, be responsible for bringing this person before the authorities. This demand for a sponsor was put in place for security reasons and the sponsor's responsibility was based on law. The demand for a sponsor/guarantor was introduced in 2004 as a security precaution against potential terrorist and insurgent attacks in Sulemaniyah Governorate.

However, as of October 2009 there is no longer a sponsor/guarantor requirement for Iraqis entering Sulemaniyah and wishing to reside in Sulemaniyah Governorate according to Atta M. Ahmed, Renas Hassan and Kosar Salih (CDO), Sulemaniyah. It was added that there had never been a requirement for Iraqis entering Sulemaniyah Governorate to have a sponsor/guarantor being present at the checkpoint in order for them to be permitted entry.

According to Atta M. Ahmed, Renas Hassan and Kosar Salih (CDO), Sulemaniyah, Iraqis not originating from KRI, i.e. from S/C Iraq and the disputed areas who wish to stay permanently in KRI are required to approach the local Asayish office in Sulemaniyah to be registered. The Asayish office will then issue an ‘information card’, and it was stressed that there is no need for a sponsor/guarantor to be present at the Asayish office or a need for a guarantor/sponsor at all in this procedure. With an ‘information card’, these persons are able to move freely throughout KRI.

### **3.3. Differential entry procedures for persons of various religious orientation and/or ethnic affiliation**

None of the IDPs interviewed by the delegation, see Annexes 1, 2 and 3, reported of any discrimination or the like upon approaching the KRG checkpoints to enter KRI or afterwards.

When asked if there could be different policies with regard to persons belonging to particular ethnic or religious groups, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, emphasized that this is not so. All are treated according to the regulations and these regulations do not take ethnic or religious background into consideration. Arabs, Kurds, Yazidis, Christians, and all other groups are treated equally.

The bottom line is that every Iraqi citizen in possession of an Iraqi ID can enter and reside in KRG without restrictions, irrespective of the person’s religious orientation or ethnic background.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that any person with an Iraqi ID can enter KRI. No person is being discriminated against because of his or her ethnicity or religion.

It was reiterated that the procedure at the checkpoint for persons wishing to enter into KRI is the same for every person, irrespective of ethnic or religious background. Whether a person is of Christian, Arab, Turkmen, or of any other origin, he or she undergoes the same procedure whatever the person’s ethnic or religious background.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that whilst the KRG authorities may claim to have a unified or uniform policy for entry and staying in KRI, it is evident that in practice this is not the case. For example, for entry there are inconsistencies in the procedures that are followed at the checkpoints from one day to the next, and there are separate and more extensive procedures for Arabs of photographing, verification of documents justifying the purpose of entry and issuance of paper. UNHCR has received consistent reports that some persons of Arab origin may come under greater scrutiny at border crossing points than persons from other backgrounds, with speculation that this may be linked to security concerns.

Referring to a recent agreement between the KRG and the Palestinian leadership that KRG is ready to receive Palestinian refugees residing in Iraq, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that so far no Palestinians have arrived in KRI. However, a Palestinian will be treated as anyone else, should he or she arrive at a KRG checkpoint. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, reiterated that he had never heard of a Palestinian entering a KRG checkpoint or of any Palestinian residing in the KRI.



### 4. KRG security measures

An INGO, Erbil, explained that earlier when there was a demand to provide a sponsor/guarantor in order to be permitted entry and stay in KRG, there was a different approach towards families and individuals. Families would generally be allowed to enter, and normally be registered and approved to stay, while an individual might have needed a person to be a sponsor/guarantor when approaching a local Asayish office in KRG. With regard to the KRG authorities the requirement was linked to a need for identification from a security perspective. It was imperative for the KRG authorities to know who the person entering KRG was, i.e. to be assured that a person from outside KRG was a “good person and did not pose a threat to security” in KRG.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that the KRG has established a “program” regarding IDPs in KRI from S/C Iraq and the disputed areas. The IDP-program aims to safeguard security in the KRI, and stated that most terrorists are of Arab origin. It was added that all KRG checkpoints are staffed by Asayish personnel.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, confirmed that all KRG checkpoints are managed by Asayish. Furthermore, he explained, checkpoints between Erbil and Mosul are also controlled by Asayish. Only the checkpoint closest to Mosul is controlled by Peshmerga, more specifically by Special Forces ‘Zerevani’.

The number of checkpoints between Mosul and Erbil is higher than in other areas as most terrorists pass through Mosul. A reference was made to the fact that there are some terrorists coming from Syria that pass through Mosul, and that the security situation in and around Mosul is fragile.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that the KRG checkpoints and borders have never been closed for security or any other reasons.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, confirmed that it is no longer a requirement to have a sponsor or guarantor to be permitted entry into the KRI. Due to the fact that security in KRI has steadily improved over the years, it is no longer required that a person has a sponsor or guarantor in order to enter, with the exception of truck-drivers.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, explained that the UNHCR through its monitoring, has observed that although the sponsorship requirements formerly in place for IDPs seeking to enter the KRI [has] been lifted, nonetheless obstacles remain, particularly for young single people, in entering the KRI. Visitors to the KRI are expected to provide reasons for their visit and bona fides is carefully examined, with easier access for persons on family visits than for young single persons. Sponsorship is required for those wish to remain for more than 10 days.

UNHCR, Amman, stated that in KRI, IDPs need to register at the checkpoint with the local authorities. Although the authorities have indicated that the former “sponsorship” system has been replaced by the “reference” system, in practice it is very similar in that it requires a non-Kurdish Iraqi to have a contact in KRI. Furthermore, approval or denial of entry into KRI is not applied systematically.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that the sponsor/guarantor procedure (see also Section 3.1.: ‘Information cards’ and the sponsor/guarantor requirement) has been put in place by

the KRG authorities for security reasons and that it allows KRG authorities strict control with security in KRI.

### **4.1. List of suspects, i.e. persons on the “Black List”**

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that all KRG checkpoints have a list of suspects [also called the “Black List”]. Persons on the list will not be permitted to enter KRI and they will be arrested by the Asayish should they approach a KRG checkpoint. The list is made up of persons who are potential or known terrorists. The list is based on court orders, as well as notices from Interpol.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, added that the KRG checkpoints also hold a list of wanted persons provided by US military in Iraq. If a person on this list tries to enter, he will be detained.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, Erbil, stated that if a person wishing to enter KRI is on the suspects list, i.e. the “Black List”, he or she will not be allowed entry into KRI and most likely he or she would be arrested and dealt with according to the law.

Concerning the list of suspects General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that the list is subject to daily update. The list contains the details and photos of 2,000 to 3,000 persons that are wanted for various reasons. These could be criminals, terrorists or persons wanted by Interpol. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, emphasized that the list is not based on random selection but on court orders.

Regarding the security procedure, Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained that any person wishing to pass must present his or her Iraqi ID at the checkpoint. The name of the person is checked against the list of suspects which is available at all checkpoints. It was emphasized that all persons entering are checked against this list. The list is compiled by General Gaywan Tawfeq, General Manager of KRG Checkpoints, and all persons on the list are recorded on the basis of court orders. Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, said that a person on the list would be detained by the Asayish.

During the delegation’s meeting with Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, a man wishing to enter KRI whose name was identical with a name recorded on the suspects list available at the checkpoint, was brought into the Captain’s office. However, after checking the suspect’s photo with the man present at the checkpoint, as well as a short questioning, it was evident that the man simply had the same name as the suspect, and the man was subsequently permitted entry.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained that a person not on the list would not be denied entry alone on the basis of a suspicion. Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that he does not have the mandate to deny entry to a person who is not on the list of suspects. He emphasized that all persons not on the list are allowed entry after having undergone the checkpoint procedure. Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, stated that in case of an actual suspicion, a person may undergo a more thorough control, before being allowed entry.

### 4.2. Cars and trucks entering KRI

An INGO, Erbil, explained that if an Iraqi is coming to KRG in a vehicle, a particular form is filled out regarding the vehicle and that form, upon leaving KRG, should be returned to the KRG checkpoint.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that Iraqis entering KRI with their vehicle will have to register the vehicle at the checkpoint and they will be provided with a 'badge', i.e. a document proving the ownership of the vehicle.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained that all incoming vehicles are checked for weapons using a detector. There is a specific procedure for vehicles not registered in the KRI. A person wishing to enter in a vehicle that is not registered in KRI has to submit details regarding the vehicle and its registration at the checkpoint. This information is entered into the computer system at the checkpoint. The owner of the vehicle must submit his or her ID at the checkpoint in exchange for a slip of paper issued at the checkpoint which serves as proof that the vehicle may pass into KRI. Upon leaving KRI through the checkpoint, the owner's ID is returned to him or her.

Traders who are expecting goods coming by truck from outside of KRI must send a person from his or her company to the checkpoint in order for trucks to be allowed to pass through. It was added that the checkpoint has information on all companies registered within KRI.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, confirmed that it is only truck-drivers that would need a sponsor or guarantor in order to enter KRI. All truck-drivers arriving at a KRG checkpoint have to refer to a guarantor in KRI before being permitted to enter KRI. Normally the guarantor would be a company owner, customer or a business partner in the KRI. In all cases the guarantor or a representative of the guarantor is obliged to be present at the checkpoint and the truck, its contents as well as the driver, should be identified before the truck is permitted to enter KRI.

### 4.3. Denial of entry

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that denying access to individuals is rare. Those individuals whose names are on the 'black list' [i.e. list of suspects] would be arrested and questioned.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that he had never heard of anyone not on the list of suspects being denied entry into the KRI. The borders to KRI are open and KRI is a democratic "country". Its borders are open to all Iraqis, irrespective of religious beliefs or ethnic affiliation.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Mosul Checkpoint, explained that there is a close coordination between the different KRG checkpoints and added that should a person be denied entry at one of the checkpoints, all other checkpoints will be alerted immediately.

When asked if persons other than those on the list of suspects could be denied entry in KRI, Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, responded that he could not comment on whether this could be the case or not. It was added that while there are anecdotal reports of persons being denied entry, precise numbers for those denied entry are not available.

When asked if persons have been denied entry to KRI due to their religious or ethnic background an INGO, Erbil, stated that this has not been the case and that it had never heard of anyone being denied entry on such grounds.

#### 4.4. Sponsor/guarantor: Responsibilities

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that the consequence of being a guarantor is that if the subject commits a crime – the guarantor will himself be arrested. A guarantor is not something that a citizen commits to without serious thought. Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, informed on 23 February 2010 that the [KRG] Minister of the Interior has warned the UNHCR of the seriousness of such a commitment.<sup>13</sup>

Concerning the sponsor/guarantor, IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, explained that it is a condition that he or she originates from KRI. Origin is stated on his or her Iraqi ID. An IDP is therefore unable to act as a sponsor/guarantor for another IDP family. IOM Regional Hub -Northern Iraq, Erbil, confirmed that a sponsor/guarantor is able to sponsor more than one family, as long as these families or persons are related to one another by kin.

Fawzi Abdulahad Saida, the Mukhtar of Maruda and Ashti districts of Ainkawa in Erbil, stated that he is acquainted with all families and their sponsor/guarantors in his two districts of Ainkawa, i.e. Maruda and Ashti districts. The Mukhtar explained that the requirement for a sponsor/guarantor is that he or she is a resident of KRI. In the case of Erbil, he or she should be a resident of Erbil. A sponsor could be of any religious or ethnic origin as long as he or she is a KRI resident. The recommendation letter from the Mukhtar that all IDPs need in order for them to obtain an ‘information card’ is purely a security precaution.

The Mukhtar added that an IDP cannot become a sponsor/guarantor as long as the IDP is not a resident of KRI. A sponsor/guarantor can be sponsor/guarantor for a number of families. The Mukhtar knew of one sponsor/guarantor who was sponsor/guarantor for 17 families. However, now a person can only be a sponsor/guarantor for more than one family if these families are relatives of each other.

When asked if there have been examples of a sponsor/guarantor being detained because of criminal acts by the person he or she is sponsoring, the Mukhtar stated that he had never heard of any sponsor/guarantor being detained or convicted by a court.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that it had never heard of families that were unable to find a sponsor/guarantor. There could be families or persons that require some time to find a sponsor/guarantor however no one has ever been deported for not providing a sponsor/guarantor. It was emphasized that IOM would have heard of any such cases as the organisation continuously monitors the situation of IDPs in KRI.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, stated that the sponsor/guarantor is responsible for the family or person which he or she sponsors. With reference to security reasons, it is important that there is a sponsor/guarantor, e.g. if a person is affiliated with terrorist activities, a sponsor/guarantor will be questioned and is responsible for bringing a person

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<sup>13</sup> E-mail correspondence February 23, 2010.

forth to the authorities. It was added that fortunately, most families that live in KRI are good families and do not commit crimes. Only very few IDPs have committed crimes in KRI.

When asked what the consequences of posing as a sponsor/guarantor can be if the person one is sponsoring commits a crime are, Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, explained that this would be up to the judge to decide. It was explained that this issue relates to two types of cases: crime-related cases and security-related cases. It was also emphasized that it is not for the Asayish to decide on any such cases as it will be for the courts to decide this.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, explained that if a person commits an ordinary crime and this is reported to the authorities it would be the responsibility of the sponsor/guarantor to try to present the person to the authorities if the person could not be found. If this is not possible for some reason, it is up to the judge if the sponsor/guarantor in some way could be affected by a crime the person he or she sponsored has committed. In theory the sponsor/guarantor could be responsible for paying a fine or compensate for the crime in cash. However, according to Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil this has never happened.

In security-related cases, the courts also decide what is done and the sponsor/guarantor is also responsible for bringing the person involved before the authorities. However, Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, stated that until now there have not been such sorts of cases in KRI. It was added that there have been a few cases where a sponsor/guarantor has been suspicious against the person he has sponsored and subsequently has approached the police or the Asayish in order to provide evidence of his or her suspicion.

Concerning the responsibilities of the sponsor/guarantor IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil stated that it had never heard of any sponsor/guarantor having been detained or convicted for any acts committed by the person he or she is sponsoring.

When asked if a person who acts as a sponsor/guarantor for a person can be held responsible for that person's actions, an INGO, Erbil stated that it never heard of this being the case.

An INGO, Erbil, reiterated that any case of a person acting as sponsor/guarantor being held accountable for actions of the person sponsored/guaranteed for was unheard of. It was considered that among the 36,000 IDPs that are now in KRG, it would be unlikely that criminal acts would never have been committed by any member of that population. An INGO, Erbil, repeated that it has never heard of sponsors/guarantors being held accountable for any criminal act that an IDP may have committed. It was added that to hold a sponsor/guarantor responsible for another person's criminal acts and to arrest the sponsor/guarantor would be a violation of basic human rights. An INGO, Erbil, stated that in case there was any kind of arresting of any sponsor/guarantor, it would know of that from the media and especially the private media. It was confirmed that Hawlati is an independent Kurdish newspaper and it is very observant of any human rights violations that may occur in KRG.

Kamal Rauf, Editor in Chief, Hawlati newspaper, Sulemaniyah stated that Hawlati had not heard about sponsors/guarantors being detained and convicted for being responsible for crimes committed by an IDP or any other Iraqi for whom they have been a sponsor/guarantor. Kamal Rauf added that Hawlati does not have sufficient reporters to report on all human rights violations in KRI, but he had never heard of such violations. However, Kamal Rauf added that there are persons who have

been detained for even long periods of time on the suspicion that they are terrorists/insurgents or affiliated with terrorists/insurgents, but none of these persons seem to have been detained just because they were sponsors/guarantors for IDPs or other Iraqis accused for terror/insurgent activities.

When asked if earlier when the requirement for a sponsor/guarantor was in place, a person would be reluctant of acting as sponsor or guarantor for another person, an INGO, Erbil, explained that generally people are not afraid of being sponsor/guarantor, however one would not be a sponsor/guarantor for a person one did not know or trust. In general people feel a responsibility towards securing KRG and will not wish to bring insecurity to the area. However, to be held legally responsible for any criminal acts another person might have committed is very unlikely.

## 5. Transfer of PDS cards

Regarding the transfer of PDS card, Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that an IDP can transfer his or her card to KRI. He explained that the process can take a while and therefore, in coordination with the WFP, assistance is provided to IDPs who are in the midst of transferring their cards. He knows of no instruction stating that some IDPs are restricted from transferring their PDS card to KRI. It was added that the policy regarding PDS cards is determined by the Ministry of Trade and is not an issue that BMD deals with.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office UNHCR, Erbil, stated that transfer of PDS cards has been difficult: while there was no system for transfer of the cards in 2006, a system of temporary transfer was introduced in 2007 but rescinded in mid 2009. Cards obtained prior to mid 2009 remain in use but new transfers are not authorized.

While PDS cards may in principle be permanently transferred on behalf of certain persons, the bureaucratic procedures required are lengthy, involving de-registration from the place of origin, the signature of the Governor of the province of origin and the sponsorship of a ministry which requires the individual's particular skills. A partial and temporary solution, in place until March 2010, was provided by the WFP, which provided persons lacking a PDS card with three items from the food basket (fortified flour, white beans and cooking oil).

According to Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), January 6, 2010, a partnership between the Ministry of Trade in Iraq and the WFP has been established to improve the state-run food system, known as the PDS, which has deteriorated since the US-led invasion in 2003 because of insecurity, poor management and corruption.

Iraq's food rationing system, known as the Public Distribution System (PDS), was set up in 1995 as part of the UN's oil-for-food programme following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. More than half of Iraq's 29 million residents depend on it, according to Trade Ministry statistics.

Monthly PDS parcels are supposed to contain rice (3kg per person); sugar (2kg per person); cooking oil (1.25kg or one litre per person); flour (9kg per person); milk for adults (250g per person); tea (200g per person); beans (250g per person); children's milk (1.8kg per child); soap (250g per person); detergents (500g per person); and tomato paste (500g per person).

Under a 2010-2014 memorandum of understanding, WFP will offer consultation and training to Trade Ministry employees on how to buy, transport, store and distribute food items nationwide in a timely manner while maintaining quality. WFP will not be actively involved in any stage of the buying and distribution process. In connection with the announcement of the partnership, the WFP Iraq Country Director, Edward Kallon, described it as "a major and important step on the path of improving the food rationing system".<sup>14</sup>

On February 9, 2010, IRIN reported that according to Iraqi government officials, the GoI has started excluding from distribution lists for state food aid those considered well-off. "We are receiving data from all the government ministries on employees paid at least 1.5 million Iraqi dinars [1,300 USD]

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<sup>14</sup> IRIN, *IRAQ: Iraqis welcome WFP role in state food aid system*, January 6, 2010.

a month,” Riadh Fakhir Al-Hashimi, head of the Trade Ministry’s Planning and Food Rationing Directorate, told IRIN. “So far we have received data regarding about 70,000 food rationing cards. That means the number of people excluded [from the distribution lists for state food aid] is about 120,000 nationwide so far,” Al-Hashimi said.<sup>15</sup>

### 5.1. Dahuk Governorate

According to UNHCR Field Office, Dahuk eligibility for the transfer of PDS cards and registration of property are linked to religion and place of origin. While Christians may transfer the PDS card from any governorate to Dahuk, PDS card transfer and property ownership/registration are restricted for Kurds from the disputed areas. Some IDPs do not transfer their PDS card. It is no longer possible for IDPs to transfer the PDS temporarily as was the case from 2007 to mid 2009. IDPs are required to register with the Asayish (Police) office.

Salah Y. Majid and Hikmat Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, stated that the question of transferring PDS cards to KRI is connected to political issues. Christians are able to transfer their PDS card from any governorate to Dahuk. They explained that only Kurds from the disputed areas do not have this option due to overriding political issues. It was added that the PDS system has been revised and currently, anyone can transfer their PDS card, with the exception of the Kurds. They informed that some IDPs do not make use of the option of transferring his or her PDS card. It is no longer possible for IDPs to transfer his or her card on a temporary basis. It was added that there is a uniform policy regarding PDS cards throughout KRI.

### 5.2. Sulemaniyah Governorate

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah, explained that according to Iraqi law, Article 140, the PDS card is used in conjunction with voter registration because it documents individuals’ places of origin. In 2007, the KRG authorized the temporary transfer of PDS cards on behalf of most persons displaced to the KRI, with the exception persons of Kurdish origin whose residence was in the disputed areas.

Temporary cards were issued to persons submitting their PDS card to the Sulemaniyah Food Department. This temporary card includes data on individuals’ places of origin, family size and details of the family members. Issuance of a card also entailed assignment of a food agent by the Food Company. Original PDS cards were retained by Sulemaniyah Food Department to prevent duplication, and restored to their owners upon submission of the temporary card. 12% of IDPs transferred their cards prior to September 2009 when PDS card transfer was suspended, reportedly as a result of instances of fraud and duplication. Persons intending to return within a short period to their places of origin reportedly tended not apply for replacement cards but continued using the original cards the place of origin, in many cases reportedly requesting relatives to obtain rations and send them to relatives displaced to the north.

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<sup>15</sup> IRIN, *IRAQ: Streamlining the state food aid system*, February 9, 2010.



### **5.3. Erbil Governorate**

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, explained that the PDS card is an important document and it can be required in certain official procedures such as issuance of passport or taking up position in a government office.

In 2007 PAC/PAO addressed the issue of transfer of PDS cards before the government offices of the Erbil Governorate and General Directorate of Food Ration. Due to their efforts, the authorities in KRI decided in 2007 to allow for the issuance of temporary PDS cards to IDPs who wish to stay in Erbil for a longer period of time. The procedure for temporary transfer of PDS card involved an IDP submitting his or her original PDS card upon which a temporary PDS would be issued to them. This procedure was laid down to avoid IDPs being able to obtain double rations. Approximately 2,000 IDP families made use of the arrangement. However, some IDPs subsequently wished to retrieve their original PDS cards that they had submitted.

Currently 1,500 IDP families in Erbil still make use of the temporary PDS card. However, there are a number of newly arrived IDPs who have no source of income and who are in need of their PDS card. Unfortunately for reasons of political nature, such as fear of changing demographics or “as a weapon towards the KRG”, the temporary transfer of PDS cards was gradually brought to a halt by GoI beginning in February 2009.

Following the meeting with PAC/PAO, the NGO forwarded a note stating its concerns and problems with regard to IDPs in Erbil. The note is included as Annex 7.

## **6. Tensions, risk of harassment or discrimination**

The delegation informed Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, that the IDPs, all of whom were of various religious and ethnic backgrounds, interviewed by the delegation, said that they had never been discriminated against, not by the local host community or by the authorities. Many added that they had never heard of others being harassed or discriminated in KRI and that all IDPs they knew of had always been treated kindly by the KRG authorities, as well as by the local population. Annexes 1 and 2 comprise the statements made by the IDPs interviewed by the delegation. These IDPs were all identified by UNHCR/PAC. Annex 3 comprises interviews with two IDP families undertaken by the delegation in Ainkawa, Erbil. These families were identified by IOM regional Hub - Northern Iraq.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that while security has improved throughout Iraq and notably in KRI, nonetheless, in KRI the situation is fragile. Reference was made to recent unrest in Sulemaniyah noting that public dissatisfaction with basic services, perceptions of corruption combined with tensions between Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Goran list, had undermined security. On December 22 and 23, 2009 tension led to riots in Piramagrun [west of Sulemaniyah] resulting in police firing their weapons in order to disperse the crowd. Politically motivated violence has continued in Sulemaniyah to date and special measures, including additional checkpoints have been in place. He stated that the situation in Sulemaniyah remains tense.

It was added that isolated instances of apparent bias or discrimination have been observed, with reports that in September 2007, a senior official from Dahuk stated that he would not allow the transfer of PDS cards for persons of Arab origin; while a cool reception was given to IDPs of Arab origin during World Refugee Day celebrations [in June 2009].

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, stated that the IDPs are treated like any other resident of KRI. There is no discrimination and Kurds are helpful and kind towards IDPs. They added that Kurds are acquainted with displacement historically and therefore have an understanding of the situation of the IDPs. Society in KRI is made up of groups of people with diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds and there are no reports of discrimination against certain groups. Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, emphasized that neither the local community nor the authorities are discriminating towards the IDPs, stating that IDPs are safe in KRI.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, stated that competition for the labour market may be a source of tension between IDPs and host communities. A reference was made to Khabat, a border area between Erbil and Ninewa, where many IDPs particularly from Mosul, reside. Competition has led to lower wages and this has caused some friction between the host community and IDPs, exacerbating stress caused by demands on the local water and electricity infrastructures.

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that he had never heard of any examples of discrimination in KRI against persons of Arab origin irrespective of whether they originate from S/C Iraq or the disputed areas.

It was added that KRI is a secure region, and everyone who comes to KRI is safe. Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that KRI is a part of Iraq and therefore KRI is open to IDPs. The KRG has obtained security in the area and is willing to provide safety to IDPs.

### 6.1. IDPs as victims of trafficking

Hoshyar S. Malo, KHRW, Erbil, informed that in general, after 2006, prostitution in KRI has increased, and added that prostitution among IDPs is a concern.

Trafficking and prostitution are sensitive issues, partly due to the fact that persons affiliated with government [KRG] have been involved in trafficking and thus protect trafficking networks. Additionally, due to many social and cultural factors, trafficking and prostitution are still some of the most sensitive issues in the region [KRI].

Social and economic factors are forcing vulnerable women to resort to prostitution. He explained that IDP women without finances, who are widows or heads of households, cannot easily find employment. Female IDPs without a network or the like in KRI, and who additionally do not speak the language, face difficult living conditions, and these IDP women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking networks.

Despite the fact that prostitution is illegal, there are about 20 brothels in Ainkawa with an average of six to seven women or girls in each. Most [of] these prostitutes are IDPs from S/C Iraq and some are minors, even as young as twelve years of age. Brothels are often forced to change address, as they are kicked out of neighbourhoods once the nature of their business is revealed. However, the police authorities themselves do not do much to address the illegal brothels even though some of the prostitutes have been forced into prostitution.

Some IDPs are also unaware of their rights and options, including where they may be able to seek assistance and protection against being trafficked and forced into prostitution. He added that particularly IDPs, who cannot speak the Kurdish language, remain “blind” to their options.

Finally, Hoshyar S. Malo, KHRW, Erbil, added that a prostitute may earn 100 USD a day but that she only keeps a fraction of this amount for herself.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, added that UNHCR is deeply concerned by reports that some IDPs have reportedly become involved in survival sex as a result of economic hardship and lack of other adequate means of livelihood and will urgently assess the level and address the issue with government and partners.

## **7. IDPs' access to education, health care, employment and housing**

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, noted that the presence of some 35,000 IDP families in the KRI places a strain on both infrastructure and the local economy. Although IDPs may access services and facilities including school and public health facilities, no corresponding increase in the budgetary allocation has been made by the GoI, despite an expectation that funding would be received. Some funds were reportedly made available late in 2008, but sufficient to cover the cost of only 45% of the intended stipend (ID [Iraqi Dinars] 900,000 equivalent to ID 150,000 for 6 months), for about 22,000 of the 37,000 eligible cases. The presence of so many IDPs may in some instances also have security implications.

UNHCR has received anecdotal reports that indicate some inconsistency in the application of procedures, as well as regional variations in procedures related to maintaining legal residence, obtaining PDS cards and purchasing property.

Salah Y. Majid, Hikmat and Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, informed that the arrival of IDPs is not a problem at all for Dahuk. They informed that the newly arrived IDPs are receiving assistance from the local authorities and from the international organizations.

There is a high cost of living in KRI, and limited employment is available. This is the situation for all inhabitants, locals and IDPs. IDPs have the same access to the facilities and services provided in KRI and the local authorities are attentive to the needs of the IDPs. In some instances the IDPs are beneficiaries of more relief assistance than locals.

IDPs are permitted to stay in KRI and have access to services like health and education in KRI. The IDPs have the right to work and are able to move freely throughout KRI as all other inhabitants of the region. It was added that IDPs in Dahuk have the same rights as the governorate's local inhabitants. Dahuk is open to all IDPs coming from outside of KRI, irrespective of their ethnic or religious background.

An INGO, Erbil, stated that there is freedom of movement throughout KRG. Earlier this was restricted to some extent, however as of today, people are totally free to move around freely in all of KRG.

UNHCR Field Office, Dahuk, stated that the cost of living in KRI is high and employment opportunities are limited for all, including IDPs. IDPs have access to the full range of available facilities and services provided in Dahuk Governorate, and the local authorities as well as international organizations seek systematically to address IDP assistance needs.

According to UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah, many IDPs have moved away from the centre of Sulemaniyah as a result of increases in rent, making access to the five Arabic language schools prohibitively expensive and impractical for many Arabic-speaking families. IDPs have in principle unrestricted access to public health, employment, schooling, housing and services. However their presence has placed heavy burdens on the local infrastructure, leading to complaints about the IDP presence from Sulemaniyah residents particularly in 2007–2008.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, noted that there are still serious gaps in the level of legal, social and psycho-social support available to persons who have experienced Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

### 7.1. Access to education

The IDPs, interviewed by the delegation, stated that their children had access to education in KRI and that schooling was provided free of charge. The children of the IDP families were attending schools in KRI, however in a few cases, adolescent sons were working to contribute to the family's income.

IDPs of Arab origin informed the delegation during the interviews that their children were attending schools and that they were taught in Arabic. Some added that their children were also learning Kurdish in school. For further details, see Annexes 1 and 2.

Another issue of concern according to Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, is access to education. While IDPs have, in principle, access to education and public health facilities, overcrowding results in classes being managed through several shifts daily. Children have not always had access to education in Kirkuk because of overcrowding. Arabic language education is not widely available and when it is, most commonly it is concentrated in cities, making access for Arabic-speaking children in rural areas problematic or even in some cases, impossible. In Sulemaniyah Governorate, which hosts approximately 5,600 IDP families of Arab origin, the five Arabic language schools are in Sulemaniyah city only and therefore inaccessible to those concentrated outside the city, particularly between Kalar and Darbandikhan.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, explained that many older children, i.e. teenagers, do not really have access to schools due to the language barrier. It was added that transferring of educational credits to KRI is also difficult for some. The KRG government does not provide sufficient funds for the opening of new schools due to budget constraints.

In the districts and the sub-districts [of Sulemaniyah] where many IDPs reside, there is no access to Arabic schools, as the schools are located in the city. Transportation costs needed to send children to schools in the city is a big expense for IDPs. They explained that there are three Arabic schools in Sulemaniyah, teaching on primary, secondary and high school levels, and efforts towards opening new schools outside of the cities have not been successful. Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, added that the problem is budgetary and not discriminatory.

### 7.2. Access to health care

All IDPs, interviewed by the delegation, stated that they had access to public hospitals and medical doctors free of charge. Some added that one had to pay a very small symbolic amount to be treated. One IDP stated that this amounted to approximately ½ USD. Most IDPs added that private hospitals and consultations at private doctors were expensive and that they were not able to afford this.

A few of the IDPs that the delegation consulted, explained that they had been compelled to seek treatment at a private clinic or hospital as they were unable to receive adequate treatment at the public hospitals available in KRI. One IDP explained that due to a long wait at the public hospitals for an abdominal surgery, she had to go to a private hospital, adding that the local community assisted her with funds to pay for her treatment. Another IDP stated that he had to seek treatment abroad for a leg injury that he had suffered, and that this had cost him a considerable amount of his savings. Finally, an IDP explained that she and her family made use of both the public and the private clinics available in KRI, depending on the ailment. For further details, see Annexes 1 and 2.

### 7.3. Access to employment

Of the IDPs consulted by the delegation, the male IDPs who were of working age and able-bodied, had found employment in KRI through either friends, neighbours or relatives. Most worked as casual labourers, while a few were employed as skilled labourers. Some of the elderly single women, that the delegation interviewed, relied on their sons to provide for them, while others were dependent on charity given by the local community. For further details, see Annexes 1 and 2.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR stated that IDPs face difficulty in accessing the labour market because of high rates of unemployment and also because they are not eligible for employment with the government [KRG] (the largest employer, with about 70 % of the government budget allocated to government salaries). IDPs compete for low paid daily hire manual work, competing with local residents or third country nationals.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, added that IDPs cannot be employed as civil servants in KRI. In 2006–2007, a number of IDPs were employed as teachers in Sulemaniyah. This led to tension in the local community and the employment of IDPs as teachers in government schools was halted.

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, stated that a large portion of the IDPs are unskilled and find employment as casual labourers. They informed that approximately 50% are unemployed, adding that persons without an income are in a difficult situation. When asked how a person without a PDS card and without employment survives, Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, said some find employment on a daily basis. He added that the local people are helpful and provide assistance to those in need. In some way or another, people without an income, manage, referring to the fact that most have a social network in the local community where they reside. Many are poor but not starving, and it was added that a person's network is very important.

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah, explained that while IDPs in the area are permitted to work, they are not entitled to government employment, unless their specific skill is required. Most IDPs seek employment in unskilled jobs, often undercutting local salary rates by accepting lower pay than [local] residents.

An INGO, Erbil, stated that many IDPs find casual or more permanent employment in the private sector and no one employing them will be asking for official papers from the KRG authorities, but merely ask if they have any problems with the authorities and are allowed to stay in KRI. This is simply a precaution by the employer to assure that he or she has employed a reliable person.

### 7.4. Access to housing and purchasing property

The majority of the IDPs interviewed by the delegation stated that they lived in rented accommodation, while a few lived with their relatives. The rent ranged from 125 USD to 650 USD. The most expensive rented accommodation was located in Ainkawa, Erbil. For further details, see Annexes 1 and 2.

Regarding property, Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, UNHCR, Erbil, informed that at time of writing, UNHCR has not been able to obtain written guidelines regarding property rights and administration in KRI. The Office has, however observed that in practice, authorization for persons from outside the KRI to purchase property within KRI appears to be linked directly to their

religious, ethnic or geographic origin. The Office has received reports that persons of Kurdish origin may purchase freely, unless they originate from the disputed territories. Christians, also, may purchase property, particularly in Ainkawa; however, Kurds and Christians from the disputed territories, are eligible to purchase property only if they hold a national ID card registered in Erbil prior to 2003. According to individual testimony and observation, persons of Arab origin originating outside the KRI, are not able to purchase land without former ministerial sponsorship that is generally skills and employment related.

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah, stated that as of December 1, 2008, IDPs may purchase property provided that they are legally resident, registered with the local police and there is no derogatory information about them on file. In practice it has been observed that persons with a link to the former Ba'ath regime are not permitted to purchase property. Registered IDPs may own property, and purchase houses, cars and land. Prior to purchase, they are required to present themselves to the local mukhtar in their area of residence. Anyone, whether IDP or local resident, moving to a new neighbourhood is required to appear before the mukhtar, who maintains local community records on behalf of the Security Department.

Salah Y. Majid, Hikmat and Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, informed that IDPs in Dahuk have the right to own property.

When asked if IDPs can own property in KRI, Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that all Iraqis have the right to own property in KRI. IDPs in KRI have access to the same services and facilities as any other citizen of Iraq.

### **7.5. Transfer of pension**

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, informed that it is difficult for an IDP in KRI who is retired to transfer his or her pension. They explained that the routine for transfer of pension is easily done, however added that difficulties can arise when it comes to the payment of the pension. The issue is related to the Central Bank in Baghdad and its failure to transfer finances to KRG. They stated that a pension can be transferred to areas that are more directly connected with the Central Bank, e.g. to banks in the disputed areas. See also Annex 7.

## 8. Internal Flight Alternative (IFA)/Internal Relocation Alternative (IRA)

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, explained that UNHCR does not view the KRI as a viable internal flight alternative for persons from other parts of Iraq. This is because of the potential difficulties for some persons in entering and taking up legal residency in the KRI, as well as the reported lack of adequate services, budget, infrastructure and reports that for some individuals, access to certain rights may in practice, be restricted on the basis of their ethnicity, religion or place of origin. Thus while certain individuals may take up residence and access most of their basic rights in the KRI, for others, access is restricted.

It is noted in the Guidelines<sup>16</sup> that the concept of internal flight or relocation alternative should “not be invoked in a manner that would undermine important human rights tenets underlying the international protection regime, namely the right to leave one’s country, the right to seek asylum and protection against *refoulement*. Moreover, since the concept can only arise in the context of an assessment of the refugee claim on its merits, it cannot be used to deny access to refugee status determination procedures. A consideration of internal flight or relocation necessitates regard for the personal circumstances of the individual claimant and the conditions in the country for which the internal flight or relocation alternative is proposed”.

UNHCR, Amman, did not consider that applying internal flight alternative/internal relocation alternative for an Iraqi from the South to the Northern governorates.

On the subject of internal flight alternative/internal relocation alternative to KRI and more generally in Iraq, UNHCR, Amman, advised that the UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines of April 2009 are still current – that there was nothing new to add to the guidelines, and that the situation in practice was “no better or worse”. These guidelines are continually monitored by UNHCR staff to ensure they are still up to date and any update will be communicated.

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<sup>16</sup> UNHCR GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION: *Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative*” within the Context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, HCR/GIP/03/04, 23 July 2003.



## 9. Risk of forced return from KRI to S/C Iraq and disputed areas

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil, stated that there has never been any deportation from KRI on the grounds that a person did not have a sponsor/guarantor.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, explained that the authorities may keep a closer eye with certain individuals without a sponsor/guarantor, and these individuals may need to keep the Asayish updated on their status, however no one as far as IOM is aware has ever been deported from KRI for not having found a sponsor/guarantor.

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, BMD, Erbil, stated that he has never heard of an IDP being forced to return to GoI area. He added that it is KRG policy to protect persons who come to KRI and forced return does not take place.

Salah Y. Majid and Hikmat Omer Qadir, PAC/HARIKAR, Dahuk, stated that they have never heard of any cases of deportation from KRI.

When asked if an IDP can risk deportation from KRI, Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, stated that they had never heard of any case of forced deportation.

Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, stated that they did not know of anyone being “kicked out” of KRI and explained that they also inquire the IDPs if they are familiar with any cases of deportation.

When asked if the KRG authorities would ever deport a person in KRI to S/C Iraq or the disputed areas against his or her own will, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, stated that this has never and would never happen unless there is an Iraqi court order concerning the person in question. General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, also stated that he had no knowledge of any Iraqi entering KRI being denied a ‘residence permit’. Finally, General Gaywan Tawfeq, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Erbil, explained that there are examples of persons who are party in a pending court case not being allowed to leave the KRI. However, such cases are based on a court order.

## Annex 1: Interviews with IDPs in Dahuk

The delegation met with the following IDPs in Dahuk. They were all identified by the UNHCR/PAC, Dahuk. All IDPs were informed that the delegation's final report would be a public document, and all agreed to have their statements included in the delegation's report.

- Abdulkhaliq Mohammed, Sunni Arab from Baghdad.
- Jizif Isaq, Assyrian Christian from Baghdad.
- Halo Khalef Fairouz, Yazidi from Mosul.
- Safar Salih Amean, Kurd from Mosul.

**Abdulkhaliq Mohammed**, a Sunni Arab from Baghdad, explained that he and his family fled Baghdad in 2009 and arrived in KRI in July 2009. He stated that unknown criminals kidnapped his daughter and one of her friends in Baghdad. However, his daughter managed to escape and Abdulkhaliq Mohammed and the rest of his family subsequently fled from Baghdad to Dahuk via Mosul. The family had relatives living in KRI prior to entering. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed rented a house in Dahuk and he is employed as a painter, earning a monthly salary of 150 USD. During the first three months in Dahuk, Abdulkhaliq Mohammed was unable to find employment, but a neighbour helped him find his current job. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed and his family obtained a residence permit from the Asayish which is openended. In case a renewal is required he will be contacted by the local Asayish office and be granted one. This office has the contact details of Abdulkhaliq Mohammed, i.e. his phone no. and his address. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed has never been contacted by the Asayish regarding renewal and he considers his residence permit to be permanent. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that all his children are attending school in Dahuk. They are being taught in Arabic but they are also learning Kurdish in school. This education is provided free of charge. Regarding medical treatment Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that access to public hospitals and medical doctors is free of charge, and added that you only have to pay a symbolic amount to be treated. Treatment at private hospitals and consultations at private doctors is very expensive, and Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that he cannot afford this. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated the he or his family had never experienced discrimination or harassment neither by the authorities nor by the local community in Dahuk. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed added that he and his family were not harassed in any respect when they arrived at the KRG checkpoint after coming from Baghdad/Mosul. He was interviewed by staff at the KRG checkpoint regarding his reason for entry into KRI. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed informed the staff that he was visiting relatives in Dahuk, and nothing else. When he and his family arrived in Dahuk they were welcomed by their relatives and assisted by HARIKAR, a local NGO in Dahuk. Regarding his Public Distribution System card (PDS card) Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that according to regulations he could not transfer this card from Baghdad. He and his family had to be assisted by relatives in the beginning. Concerning the issue of discrimination Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that he and his family has never been discriminated against and he had never heard of IDPs having experienced any kind of discrimination in Dahuk. Abdulkhaliq Mohammed emphasized that he and all the IDPs that he knows of, have always been treated kindly by authorities as well as the local population in Dahuk. According to Abdulkhaliq Mohammed, he and his family as well as all other IDPs are staying in KRI because they have found safety and they do not fear deportation. Finally Abdulkhaliq Mohammed stated that he can travel freely throughout KRI without any restrictions.

**Jizif Isaq**, an Assyrian Christian from Baghdad, explained that he arrived in Dahuk in 2005 from Baghdad. He came to KRI with his wife and two children. His wife's family had relatives in Dahuk prior to their entering KRI. He received a permit from the Asayish office which was renewed in 2007. Jizif Isaq explained that his permit to stay in KRI is open now and that he will be contacted in case further renewal is required. Jizif Isaq said that he did not have a job during the first three months in Dahuk. He did not transfer his PDS card to KRI but explained that he and his family received support from their relatives initially. Jizif Isaq found employment through friends and relatives in a trading company as a stock keeper. He stated that rent is high in KRI and that he pays approximately 300 USD for accommodation. His son attends an Arabic school in Dahuk and he did not have any problems enrolling him. He explained that the Kurdish language is difficult for the family to learn. His family makes use of the public hospitals and doctors which provide decent treatment. Jizif Isaq added that he and his family might wish to return to Baghdad once the security situation allows for them to do so. According to Jizif Isaq there is now a sizeable Assyrian community in Dahuk, however that some are returning to their place of origin as well. He and his family have never experienced any kind of harassment or discrimination from the local community or the authorities in Dahuk. Jizif Isaq also stated that he had never heard of any Assyrian being harassed or discriminated against in Dahuk. He added that there is an Assyrian congregation in Dahuk. Jizif Isaq has travelled freely about in the KRI without any restrictions. When he and his family entered the KRI they used their Iraqi ID as identification.

**Halo Khalef Fairouz**, a Yazidi from Mosul, explained that she entered KRI from Mosul with her family on May 21 2009. Her husband died before they left Mosul. Halo Khalef Fairouz arrived in KRI with her three sons, leaving all their belongings in Mosul. Her family had been threatened several times in Mosul and finally she decided to leave Mosul for KRI. They arrived at the checkpoint near Dahuk. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that one of her sons had come to Dahuk three months before the rest of the family. The family stayed with relatives in Khanki, a town near Dahuk, for the first three months. After this they moved to Khanki Collective Town where they rented a house. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that it was difficult for her family to stay with her relatives for a longer period as they only had a very small house. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that she is unemployed and has no income whatsoever. However, her two sons work as casual labourers and pay the rent. They live together in the rented house and do not receive economic support from the authorities in Dahuk. Halo Khalef Fairouz added that she had her PDS card transferred from Mosul to the village of Fayda which is located within the Ninewa governorate not far from Dahuk and Khanki. She and some other families in Khanki usually rent a small pick-up truck in order to collect their food rations in Fayda. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that one cannot transfer one's PDS card from the disputed areas to KRI. Therefore Halo Khalef Fairouz has transferred her PDS card to Fayda, which is located in the disputed areas, but much closer to Khanki than Mosul. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that she and her sons have access to free medical treatment and they also have free access to the public hospitals in KRI. For treatment at the hospital one pays an amount of ½ USD. Halo Khalef Fairouz added that she cannot afford treatment at a private hospital or a private doctor. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that she and her two sons have never experienced ill-treatment, discrimination or harassment from the authorities or from the local community. They have always been treated well and Halo Khalef Fairouz stated that she might wish to stay in KRI forever. She said that she is not willing to go back to Mosul as long as the security situation does not improve. She fears for herself and her family in Mosul due to their Yazidi and Kurdish ethnicity. They were not able to leave their home in Mosul as they were under

threat. Halo Khalef Fairouz added that also Kurds in Mosul are under threat. Halo Khalef Fairouz reiterated that she had never heard of any Yazidi being harassed, maltreated or discriminated against in Dahuk. All Yazidi have been treated very well in Dahuk, and they have all been treated as any other resident of KRI. Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that she does not have any children attending school and that her two sons now are adults. In any case her two sons had to work when they came to Dahuk as their income is badly needed. Finally, Halo Khalef Fairouz explained that she has travelled about in the KRI and never experienced any restrictions of movement.

**Safar Salih Amean**, a Kurd from Mosul, explained that he arrived in KRI in 2007 from Mosul with his wife and children. Initially they stayed in a village near Dahuk, but in November 2009 the family moved to Dahuk. Safar Salih Amean added that he had many relatives in the area around Dahuk. Safar Salih Amean stated that he and his family crossed into KRI illegally. He tried to cross into KRI at Shikhan checkpoint but was refused entry. At that time all Kurds from Mosul were refused entry for unknown reasons. After his entry into KRI Safar Salih Amean contacted the Asayish office and explained his situation. He did not receive a permit of residency but was registered and verbally informed that he was allowed to stay in KRI. He did not receive a card as evidence of his permission to stay and he explained that the Asayish has a file where all his data is registered. He said that he has not faced any problems. After his entry into KRI Safar Salih Amean obtained permit to stay in KRI at the local Asayish office in Dahuk. However, he is not an official resident of KRI and initially he could not obtain a work permit in KRI. Safar Salih Amean added that he can move about freely in KRI and he has no problems at the various checkpoints as long as he presents his Iraqi ID. After some time the local Asayish office in Dahuk collected his personal details and permitted him to stay in KRI. He is now registered with the Asayish.<sup>17</sup> Since then Safar Salih Amean has had no problems with the authorities and he does not fear to be deported from KRI. Safar Salih Amean explained that his occupation is as a casual labourer. Initially he worked as a casual labourer on a farm near Dahuk. After two years he moved to Dahuk where he now also works as a casual labourer. Safar Salih Amean informed that during winter it can be difficult to find a job, but that in the summertime it is far easier. Safar Salih Amean usually works together with his sons or his cousins. Safar Salih Amean has three children who are attending school. They have free access to education, and it is not a problem for them and the rest of his family that they are not considered local residents of KRI. Safar Salih Amean and his family have free access to medical treatment in the same manner as any resident of KRI have. Safar Salih Amean explained that it is only with regard to property that he does not have the same rights as a resident of KRI. For example one has to be a local resident of KRI in order to buy property in KRI, e.g. a house or a car. If Safar Salih Amean wishes to purchase property, it would require that he have a relative, who is a local resident of KRI, act as the formal owner of this property. The reason for this is that Safar Salih Amean is registered as a resident of Mosul. Regarding his PDS card Safar Salih Amean explained that he transferred it to the town of Fayda in order to make it easier for him to collect his food rations. Safar Salih Amean added that he knows of many Kurds in Dahuk that have resorted to this option. Safar Salih Amean emphasized that he does not fear that he or his family will be deported to

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<sup>17</sup> UNHCR Dahuk explained that registration with the Asayish is normal procedure. The representative of UNHCR in Dahuk stated that he is also registered with the Asayish. All Kurds from Mosul are registered. 85% of all IDPs in Dahuk are Kurds. The majority of these are from Baghdad, and the rest are from Mosul and other locations. UNHCR added that the agency has no information that any Kurd from Mosul have been deported to Mosul or forced to leave KRG.

Mosul and added, that he had never heard of anyone being deported or repatriated against their will. Safar Salih Amean explained that the only difference between him and his family, and those with a residence permit, is that the latter have an official residence in KRI while his official residence is in Mosul. Safar Salih Amean added that when he and his family arrived in KRI in 2007, many other Kurdish families from Mosul were granted residence permit, but because he did not have a sponsor or a guarantor in KRI he was not able to obtain a residence permit.<sup>18</sup> Therefore he was required to register at the local Asyaish office in Dahuk. Finally, Safar Salih Amean stated that he and his family feel safe in KRI and they have never experienced any form of ill-treatment or discrimination from authorities or the community in general in Dahuk.

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<sup>18</sup> UNHCR Dahuk explained that the KRG authorities do not issue any document to show that a person is an IDP and IDPs do not get an official residence permit in KRG. It is only foreigners that can apply for a residence permit in KRG. IDPs from South Central Iraq and the disputed areas are all Iraqi citizens and they do not have to apply for a residence permit in order to stay in KRG. They are free to enter KRG.

## Annex 2: Interviews with IDPs in Erbil

The delegation met with the following IDPs in Erbil. They were all identified by the UNHCR/PAC Erbil. All IDPs were informed that the delegation's final report would be a public document, and all agreed to have their statements included in the delegation's report.

- Kurdistan Omar, Kurd from Mosul
- Ghassan Rada Hassan, Shia Arab from Baghdad
- Kurdish woman from Mosul
- Kurdish woman from Mosul
- Friyal Mohammed Eid, Turkmen from Kirkuk
- Kurdish woman from Mosul
- Glizar Yousef, Christian Chaldean from Baghdad

**Kurdistan Omar**, a Kurdish woman from Mosul, came to Erbil from Mosul in 2005 along with her husband and three children aged 1, 4 and 6 years. Currently she is in the process of divorcing her husband who was abusive towards her and wanted to take on a second wife. Her six-year-old son is presently staying with his father. Kurdistan has always had family in Erbil and is staying in a house with her relatives, i.e. her father and two brothers. They are all employed as casual labourers. She explained that she does not have a job and she receives no assistance from the KRG. She has her own Iraqi ID and said that she does not need to have an 'information card' as she is a Kurd. When she and her husband entered KRI her husband who is from Mosul had to go to the Asayish office to register. She said that she has no problems with the KRG authorities or the local community and that her husband is the only source of her problems. She can consult the public hospital in Erbil and consultations are free of charge. She added that she does not have a PDS card but her six family members in Erbil all have their PDS cards.

**Ghassan Rada Hassan**, a Shia Arab from Baghdad, arrived in KRI approximately five months ago. He stated that he entered KRI through the Kirkuk checkpoint along with his wife and four children with no problems. He was well received at the Kirkuk checkpoint. He stated that he had no relatives in KRI. In Baghdad he used to work as Head of Office at the Ministry of Finance. He added that he was Captain in the Iraqi army from 1989 to 1991. He is currently retired and his main source of income is his pension. He lives with his wife and children in Ainkawa in Erbil and states that rent is very expensive there. He pays 650 USD in rent all the while his pension is only about 700 USD. He explained that the reason they stay in Ainkawa is that his children attend Arabic schools that are located in that area. In addition to this he is renting a furnished house which is expensive as he was unable to bring belongings from Baghdad. He added that he does not want to move to another, cheaper apartment as his present apartment is already furnished and that it is a comfortable apartment. Ghassan does not receive assistance from the government and explains that he used to have his savings and was well off. However he spent most of his funds in Lebanon on the treatment of his leg that got injured in a bomb blast. Initially he was admitted to the American Hospital in Baghdad. The hospitals in Erbil do not have the adequate treatment for his injury. Additionally he has not been able to transfer his PDS card as this would require going to Baghdad, which he will

not. He said that he had never experienced harassment or the like from the authorities or the local community while staying in KRI. He stated that he had been granted refugee status by UNHCR in Syria. However, when in Syria he once again was threatened because he had worked for the Americans and therefore he and his family fled to KRI.

**A Kurdish man** from Mosul, explained that he came to Erbil with his wife and six children in 2005. He explained that he fled Mosul five years ago as he was politically active and his brother had been killed. He does not receive assistance from the government and even though he is partially disabled due to an injury on his left arm, he works at the local market. He left all his belongings in Mosul and life is hard at the moment. However, he and his family have never had any problems with the local authorities in KRI or with the local community. His children attend school in KRI. He had his nephew with him at the meeting with the delegation. The nephew explained that he also fled Mosul; however his wife is still there.

**Nafiah Abdulqadir**, a Kurdish woman from Mosul, arrived in KRI about 2 ½ years ago with her three remaining children after her son was killed by terrorists. Her husband, who was Arab, was killed in a car accident in Mosul nine years ago. She explained that she lived in Turaq village in rented accommodation paying 175 USD in rent and added that the local community is helpful and that everybody is supportive towards her. Nafiah has to undergo abdominal surgery in Erbil and she explained that the local community helped her pay for the treatment at a private hospital. She went to a private hospital as the wait at public hospitals was six months. She said that she cannot use her PDS card in Erbil. She said she is safe in KRI and that she gets assistance in the form of food and non-food items from UNHCR. She also receives assistance from the WFP, as well as the NGOs Reach and Qandil which is distributed through the DDM. She added that she had never experienced negative treatment from the authorities or the local community.

**Friyal Mohammad Eid**, a Turkmen woman from Kirkuk. She came from Mosul to Erbil along with her Kurdish husband and six children approximately 1 ½ years ago. Her husband suffered a car accident about six months ago leaving him handicapped and unable to work. Her two eldest sons (15 and 16 years of age) are therefore currently working at the market. Two of her daughters are attending school which is free of charge. Another daughter is married, while the youngest daughter is too young to attend school. Besides the earnings of her two sons, the family relies on local residents and organizations for assistance. The family had also received assistance from UNHCR and DDM. Friyal has not been able to transfer her PDS card and in the past couple of months it has not been possible to go to Mosul to collect food rations due to her husband's situation. She added that she cannot afford the medicine her husband needs and therefore owes the pharmacy money. She explained that much of the medicine needed for her husband is not available at the public hospital. Additionally she does not have sufficient kerosene.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Concerning supply of kerosene to IDPs Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, explained that the government is not providing this to them. Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, had been informed by the local authorities in Erbil that the GoI was not forwarding enough kerosene for the inhabitants of KRI. Mahdi M. Qadr and Fakhir Ibrahim, PAC/PAO, Erbil, informed that it was not KRG policy to differentiate in the distribution of kerosene among the inhabitants of KRI. However due to the fact that KRG was supplied with limited kerosene from GoI, the KRG government was not able to provide the IDPs with kerosene.

**A Kurdish woman** from Mosul, stated that she arrived in Erbil from Mosul in 2003 along with her husband, mother and six children. Her husband passed away four months ago due to heart problems. Upon entering KRI she did not have relatives in the area. She explained that she has always been treated well in KRI. With the use of her PDS card she has travelled back and forth to her food agent in Mosul to get food supplies. However it has not been an option the past seven months as it has been unsafe. Now she said she is dependent on the charity of affluent persons. She explained that she received assistance from the UNHCR in the form of non-food items as well as from the DDM. She did not however receive any compensation through the DDM. All her children are married now and she lives on her own. She pays approximately 125 USD in rent and another 70 USD for electricity. When asked how she could meet these costs she responded that she is not begging, but the local community assists her in meeting these costs.

**Glizar Yousef**, a Christian Chaldean woman from Baghdad, came to Erbil in 2006 from Baghdad. She said that she originally is of Christian Kurdish origin from Shaqlawa and that she moved to Baghdad in 1996. Her husband worked for the US Army and left Iraq in order to seek asylum in Sweden. He was denied asylum and returned to Iraq about a year ago joining his family in KRI. She said that his documents were all still in Sweden however that he had no problem entering and staying in KRI. She added that the family had spent a great deal of their savings on her husband's quest for asylum in Sweden and that her husband had suffered psychological problems while in Sweden. However now he was much better. She is affiliated with the Chaldean community in Erbil. Her husband has a job in Erbil and in addition to that they received assistance in the form of food items from the Biblian Church up until a month ago. However economically she said, they are in a tough situation, as they have a debt and due to the fact that her husband was unemployed for a period of time after he returned from Sweden. She said that she has not experienced any problems with the local authorities in KRI. Her husband was once very recently slightly harassed by some policemen that were drunk. She has experienced no maltreatment or discrimination from the locals in KRI. She added that she had not received the compensation that was allocated to her through central government to the DDM. The family's PDS card was transferred in 2007 and she is able to collect food in Erbil. Regarding health services she said that they sometimes use the public system, other times go to private hospitals, depending on the ailment.



### Annex 3: Interviews with IDPs in Ainkawa, Erbil

The delegation met with the following two IDP families in Ainkawa in the city of Erbil. The two families were identified by IOM's monitoring team in Erbil. The IDPs were informed that the delegation's final report would be a public document, and all agreed to have their statements included in the delegation's report.

**Christian IDP family in Ainkawa, Erbil:** The family stated that they fled Mosul approximately one month ago. The wife explained that her husband was killed by insurgents in front of the family's house in Mosul the day before they fled to Erbil, KRI.

The family comprises a mother and her four children comprising two sons and two daughters. They stated that they did not face any problems at the KRG checkpoint when entering from Mosul. They only needed to present their ID cards and were then permitted entry. They did not need a sponsor to be present at the checkpoint. At that time several Christian families fled Mosul and they were all treated in the same way upon arrival at the KRG checkpoint. The family is not ready to return to Mosul as they fear renewed attacks by terrorists or insurgents. However, as it is very expensive to live in KRI the family wishes to go abroad by being resettled by the international community. It is difficult to find jobs in KRI and their two sons are also unemployed. One son was a student in Mosul but he has not transferred his enrollment to Erbil. The family now stays in the house of a relative to the deceased husband. They live in congested conditions however they feel safe in KRI and do not fear to be returned to Mosul against their will. The widow was a government employee while living in Mosul, but she cannot transfer her job to Erbil. She is now unemployed. However, she is presently on a two months leave from her job in Mosul and if she returns she will still have her job. It was added that the KRG authorities are not ready to transfer the family's PDS card to KRI until the family has a sponsor/guarantor. The family members have registered at the Asayish office in Ainkawa but they have not yet applied for 'information cards' as they do not intend to stay in KRI. They stated that they did not encounter any problems at the Asayish office. They added that in spite of this they can stay as long as they wish in KRI as they are residing in the house of their relatives. The head of this house is also their sponsor/guarantor. Finally, the family or their sponsor had never heard of any IDP being unable to find a sponsor/guarantor in Erbil and they added that they had never heard of any IDP that has been deported from KRI against his or her will.

**Arab IDP family in Ainkawa, Erbil:** The female head of the household explained that she and her family are from Baghdad and that half of her family arrived in Erbil approximately six months ago. The remaining part of the family is still in Baghdad. They fled Baghdad for security reasons. She stated that the family has no relatives in KRI however her husband has a colleague from his company in Erbil. Her husband found a job in Erbil two weeks after their arrival in Erbil by the support of the colleague. This colleague was present at the meeting with the delegation and he confirmed that he is the sponsor/guarantor of the family.

She stated that she and her family were all well-received at the KRG Checkpoint when they arrived six months ago. They only had to present their ID cards and explain why they entered KRI. The family stated that they were tourists and got a tourist card, and they stayed for approximately one week at a hotel in Erbil before renting the house they now live in Ainkawa, Erbil. At the same time,

i.e. one week after entry into KRI, the family received an 'information card'. The 'information card' is valid up to 31 December 2010. To obtain the 'information card' the family members had to present their ID cards, Jinsiya, PDS card, and a letter from the neighbourhood Mukhtar. It was added that the sponsor/guarantor was present at the Asayish office when the 'information card' was issued. The sponsor/guarantor explained that he had to present his personal documents at the Asayish office in order for him to become sponsor/guarantor. He was then interviewed and the Asayish was informed about how he knew the family and his reasons for accepting to be a sponsor/guarantor. The sponsor/guarantor added that he knows a number of Arab families in Ainkawa and they have all undergone the same procedure as the family to whom he is now a sponsor/guarantor had.

#### **Annex 4: Visit to Qalawa camp, Sulemaniyah**

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah explained that some individuals have not registered as IDPs. This includes approximately 60 families of mixed Arab Muslim Shia and Sunna, as well as Kurdish origin, squatting on a property in Central Sulemaniyah in an area referred to as Qalawa camp. Many families are originally from the Surifiya district of Baghdad, where many were formerly employed in various kinds of casual and menial labour. The families, if financially able would be permitted to rent property elsewhere and register with the police. However, the residents are reluctant to vacate the location, because of its proximity to the centre of town and opportunities for casual labour, and have rejected proposals made that they relocate to an areas some 30 km outside the city, because of their concern over the potential loss of livelihoods. 57 of the original group of some 120 families returned to their places of origin in March 2008, with UNHCR assistance. About 60 families remain in the camp but the majority has not yet expressed the intention to return to their places of origin. Many persons in Qalawa subsist by begging and live in make-shift shelters. There were 27 children of school age in the camp in 2009. They were not enrolled in school, particularly if engaged in begging and lacking alternative sources of livelihood, declined UNHCR supported transportation to schools in the neighbourhood.

The delegation visited the Qalawa camp accompanied by UNHCR staff in Sulemaniyah. The camp is located within the city of Sulemaniyah on private property. A proposal to build a university on the plot of land is on hold, as the IDPs are not willing to leave the location. Surrounding the camp are storey buildings, including buildings in which other IDPs have found housing.

The camp consists of make-shift shelters that are constructed from wooden canes and covered with canvases of plastic. There are no sanitation facilities or drainage in the camp thus creating pools of sewage around the area. Large water containers are dispersed around the camp and these are supplied by international and local NGOs. No electricity is provided in the camp and outside the shelters there are a number of generators that the inhabitants use to fuel lighting and television sets and the like inside the shelters. Currently there are approximately 60 families living in the camp. There are a few Kurdish families among them, however the majority of the families are Arab, both Sunni and Shia, and they have come to Sulemaniyah from Baghdad, more specifically from an area called Surifiya. According to UNHCR, in Surifiya in Baghdad the living conditions of the IDPS were similar to the ones they are currently living under in the Qalawa camp located in Sulemaniyah. Their way of living in Surifiya also resembles the means by which they live in Sulemaniyah, including the means by which they make an income. UNHCR explained, that some IDPs in the camp may claim that they left large houses in Baghdad which now have been taken over by others. However UNHCR stated that it doubts such assertions are true.

UNHCR explained that a plot of land in Bazyan approximately 20 km from the location of the Qalawa camp has been allocated for the construction of a camp with facilities for the IDPs. However the IDPs remain adamant and are unwilling to move from the Qalawa camp in the city of Sulemaniyah.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, explained that the Qalawa camp is not an official camp, confirming that the property upon which the camp is settled is private. In 2009 there were efforts to try and move the IDPs to Bazyan located 20 km of the city of Sulemaniyah. However the IDPs refused to move as their main source of income is based on begging and

prostitution in the city of Sulemaniyah. Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, added that there are no sanitation facilities in the camp or electricity.

The municipality and government are willing to assist the IDPs from the Qalawa camp if they move to Bazyan. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR and various NGOs worked together in 2008 on the proposal of setting up a new camp with facilities for the IDPs of the Qalawa camp. In the beginning of 2009 the proposal was however rejected by the inhabitants of Qalawa.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, confirmed that the majority of the inhabitants of Qalawa camp are Sunni or Shia Arabs from Baghdad. They added that there are also some Kurds from Ninewa in the camp. Generally the IDPs in the camp are poor, and if they return to their place of origin they are likely to live under similar conditions as in Qalawa. Their stories are mixed and some are quite terrible, e.g. children who have lost their parents and are now taken care of by other relatives.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, stated that there are no records of the authorities harassing the people that live in the Qalawa camp. They added that CDO/PAC recently brought a government delegation to the camp for a visit. The inhabitants complained to the [government] delegation that they were lacking water which resulted in water supplies being delivered to the camp right away. Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, said that if the inhabitants of Qalawa agree to transfer to a new location that has been allocated to them called Bazyan, conditions would be much more suitable for them. The Qalawa camp receives no agreed government assistance besides security. However ICRC provides some assistance in the form water and food items.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, stated that the Qalawa camp originally comprised 200 families and explained that many had moved to other locations or returned to Baghdad with the assistance with UNHCR. At the moment the remaining 60 families of the Qalawa camp are unwilling to leave the camp.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, informed that generally the children of the Qalawa camp do not attend school even though two or three schools in Sulemaniyah teach in Arabic. They explained that some families have stated that they cannot pay the transportation fees necessary to send the children to the schools. It was added that the American University of Sulemaniyah has opened classes for children which approximately 15 children do attend. Mostly children do not attend school as their parents send them to the streets in order to beg for money.

Atta M. Ahmad and Bakhtiar A. Salih, PAC/CDO, Sulemaniyah, informed that it is not a problem for the IDPs of Qalawa to be registered as IDPs. It was added that they have already been registered as IDPs, but that they are refusing to integrate into the host community, and are unwilling to move to another location.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil, stated that the Qalawa camp is very unique and that no IDPs are living this way in the rest of KRI. The IDPs of Qalawa camp make up a very special case and it is difficult for both the KRG authorities, UNHCR and NGOs to assist them in any way.

Concerning the Qalawa camp in Sulemaniyah, Atta M. Ahmed, Renas Hassan and Kosar Salih (CDO), Sulemaniya, stated that the IDPs living in this camp comprise 57 families as of 11 March

2010. The poor conditions in the Qalawa camp resembles no other IDP settlement in KRI. It was explained that on 3 March 2010 the KRG government decided to relocate the IDPs in Qalawa camp to a newly established standard camp for IDPs near Sulemaniyah city. The new camp complies with international standards for IDP or refugee camps, and it will be run and supported by UNHCR and international NGOs. However, Atta M. Ahmed, Renas Hassan and Kosar Salih (CDO), Sulemaniyah, stated that the IDPs living in the Qalawa camp refuse to relocate and added that they are very difficult to assist as they are not ready to integrate into KRI society. They make a living from petty trade, begging and prostitution in Sulemaniyah city. These IDPs are mainly from Baghdad area and they have always lived the way as they do now. It was emphasized that the Qalawa camp is an exemption as to how IDPs are living in KRI. No other IDP group in KRI is preferring to live under such conditions.

## Annex 5: Communication with KHRW, Erbil

**From:** Jens Weise Olesen  
**Sent:** 26 January 2010 15:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]@khrw.org; [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Jens Weise Olesen; Vanessa Ostenfeld  
**Subject:** Meeting notes for approval  
**Attached files:** Hoshyar\_S\_\_Malo\_(KHRW)for approval.doc

**Priority:** High

Dear Hoshyar,

Thank you for the very pleasant meeting we had with you.  
We enclose our meeting notes for your approval. Please feel free to add, correct or comment on the meeting notes attached.

As we are currently working on our report we would appreciate very much if you can return the approved as soon as possible. Should we not hear from you before Thursday January 28, we assume that you agree with the contents of our notes. Please be kind to let us know if you are not able to meet this deadline.

Thank you very much. We hope to meet you again in the KRG.

Best regards,

Vanessa and Jens

Documentation and Project Division  
Danish Immigration Service  
Copenhagen

## Entry Procedures and Residence in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) for Iraqi Nationals

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**From:** Hoshyar Malo [REDACTED]@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** 29 January 2010 00:33  
**To:** Jens Weise Olesen  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@khrw.org; Vanessa Ostenfeld  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting notes for approval  
**Attached files:** Hoshyar\_S\_\_Malo\_(KHRW)Edited.doc

Dear Vanessa and Jens,  
Sorry, I was out of Erbil on a mission with no access to the internet,  
Attached please find the editted version of the meeting notes, I have done some small amendments  
to the notes,

Best regards,  
Hoshyar

Attached file:

## Entry Procedures and Residence in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) for Iraqi Nationals

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Notes from meeting with Hoshyar S. Malo, Director, Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW), Erbil

E-mail: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that KHRW cooperated with IOM on IDP monitoring and needs assessment from 2007 to 2008 and that the organisation had been a main source of information on IDPs in KRG. KHRW's data concerning IDPs has now been transferred to DDM after its establishment and the NGO now cooperates with DDM.

KHRW was established in 1989 and has opened three offices in KRG after 1992 and also offices in Kirkuk and Baghdad after 2003. Its main field of work includes human rights monitoring and humanitarian affairs. KHRW's humanitarian work includes reconstruction work as well as providing food items and non-food items. The main part of the humanitarian program is focused on emergency response, including providing relief in Mosul and Kirkuk. The Erbil and Sulaymaniyah branch offices of KHRW also work on health issues and operate health clinics, particularly aimed at assisting women and children, in towns outside of those cities.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that within the legal sector, KHRW is currently working on the law of NGOs which is being drafted by the GoI and KRG. KHRW is also a partner of ICNL, International Center for Non-profit Law.

IDPs is a main area of concern in KHRW's work on humanitarian issues as well as human rights monitoring.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) confirmed that upon entering KRI, IDPs have access to services, such as health care, education, housing and employment in KRG. Concerning difficulties that IDPs may have in KRI, Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that IDPs mainly face issues of legal nature. As an example, he stated that IDPs are faced with not being able to purchase property. He added that earlier a residency permit was issued an IDP. Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that in principle a permit is no longer required. Earlier a residence permit was required, however now IDPs are considered Iraqis and do not need permission to enter and stay. However, Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) added now another card, called an information card (karti zaniyari) is issued to IDPs in its place. He informed that according to the Ministry of Interior and Asayish, these information cards are purely used for security reasons and that the authorities have explained that "we need to know who they [the IDPs] are".

Regarding the registration of IDPs and issuance of information cards Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that he was of the opinion that the practice was also related to political issues. He explained that generally there is no desire within the KRG to change the demographics of the area. Currently there are many Arabs in the region and the demographics are changing. Therefore the IDPs' legal status remains problematic in KRG. KRG government is not willing to transfer PDS cards from Baghdad to Erbil for example. The issue of PDS card prompted the GoI and KRG to allow for the temporary transfer of PDS cards in early 2007 for IDPs and is still going on?????????. Hoshyar S.

**Kommentar [HT1]:** IDPs have the right to access those services, but KRG is unable to provide those services to all of those IDPs!

**Kommentar [HT2]:** This is how should it be, but in fact they still need residence permission if they want to stay in KRI and they still need someone to sponsor them to issue the residence card!



Malo (KHRW) explained that it was of no interest to KRG to allow IDPs transfer their PDS cards permanently as this would entail a permanent transfer of an IDP to KRG. He informed that the PDS card is the main source of statistics regarding the population and their place of origin. The temporary PDS card is renewed annually.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that many interrelated issues that derive from politics make life difficult for IDPs in KRG. KRG still feels that IDPs are a burden for the area.

Regarding the issue of PDS cards, Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that the transfer of PDS card is closely linked to the electoral system and explained that a person's origin on the card determines where one has a right to vote. Should an IDP change his origin to Erbil, he or she would vote in KRG, adding that in Iraq, many still mainly vote based on their ethnic affiliation or religious beliefs, i.e. Shia or Sunni.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that the influx of IDPs has also led to tension between the local community and IDPs. Tensions have arisen due to perceived competition over employment, health services and schools. IDPs are taking on jobs for lesser wages than locals and prices on rent have risen due to the demand for rental accommodation of IDPs. He added that the group of IDPs in KRG is very diverse and some are quite affluent while others are very poor.

When informed that the IDPs that the delegation had interviewed stated that they had not experienced ill-treatment, harassment or discrimination at the hands of the authorities or the local population, Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) confirmed that "generally speaking" this is correct.

However concerning discrimination against IDPs Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that KHRW had met with many families in the town of Khabat near Erbil and that most of these families had suffered discrimination. The IDPs living in Khabat are mainly Kurds from the disputed areas. According to Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) they felt some sort of discrimination from the local community. KHRW has assisted the community in Khabat in alleviating misunderstandings, often tribal, that have come about between the local and the IDP community. Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that PAO and KHRW has assisted the IDPs and the local community in establishing joint committees aimed at encouraging cooperation between the two communities. The joint committee addresses issues that arise in the mixed town and meets regularly with the local authorities and the Governor of Erbil.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) added that there a need for hundreds of these sorts of projects in KRG in order to address misunderstandings that arise between IDPs and local communities.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that tensions that have come about within communities are serious and have even led to persons being killed. The government would in such cases state that honor and tribal issues were the cause of deaths....

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that prostitution among IDPs is also another concern. After 2006 there has been an increase in prostitution in KRG in general.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) emphasized that trafficking and prostitution are sensitive issues partly due to the fact that persons affiliated with government have been involved in trafficking and thus protect trafficking networks and also due to many social and cultural factors this issue still one of the most sensitive issues in the region.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that social and economic factors are forcing vulnerable women to resort to prostitution. He explained that IDP women without finances, who are widows or heads of households, cannot easily find employment. Female IDPs without a network or the like in KRG and who additionally do not speak the language, face difficult living conditions and these IDP women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking networks. He added that in despite the fact that prostitution is illegal, there are about Ainkawa 20 brothels with an average of six to seven women or girls in each. most these prostitutes are IDPs from S/C Iraq and some are minors, even as young as twelve years of age. Brothels are often forced to change address as they are kicked out of neighbourhoods once the nature of their business is revealed. However the police authorities themselves do not do much to address the illegal brothels even though some of the prostitutes have been forced into prostitution.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that a prostitute may earn 100 USD a day but that she only keeps a fraction of this amount for herself.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) added that some IDPs are also unaware of their rights and options, including where they may be able to seek assistance and protection against being trafficked and forced into prostitution. He added that particularly IDPs who cannot speak the Kurdish language remain “blind” to their options.

Regarding social committees Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that they do not exist. He explained that a “social committee” could refer to instances when e.g. two tribes make an agreement on how to solve a tribal dispute. He explained that if two families cannot reach a settlement, tribal leaders of elders would often get involved. Concerning offenses against a family’s honour due to a relationship between a young man and a woman, a settlement would often involve marriage. However if not completely settled, “blood between two tribes will never end”, according to Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW).

Two heads of tribes may decide that the two families involved in an incident where a family’s honour has been tainted, should kill their son and daughter respectively. The solution involving a family agreeing to kill their own son themselves is not unusual as this prevents more “blood” between the tribes. By killing their own son the family “cuts the blood” and prevents more blood from flowing between the tribes. Settling honour issues often involves marriage however it is not always the case that this can be accepted which subsequently can lead to more serious settlements involving killing.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) added that some may turn to a larger more powerful tribe for assistance, e.g. the Barzani tribe. Should a person turn to the Barzani tribe he would be likely to be safe for the

time being and the Barzanis may try to mediate between the tribes involved. He added that many disputes of honour have been solved through the Barzani tribe.

### Regarding IDPs contd.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that KRG authorities do not discriminate against IDPs. He explained that some IDPs feel discriminated against, but that there are no records that support such claims. As an example Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that an IDP applying for a job may have all the merits that the job requires, but may not be chosen for the job due to the fact that he or she does not know the local language or the local area. In addition there may be IDPs who are less qualified than locals and thereby do not have access to certain jobs. Finally he added that he knew of a local supermarket that had hired IDPs who were willing to work under the wages of locals. However upon realizing that customers spoke Kurdish the supermarket then ending up firing the IDPs and employing local Kurds instead.

Regarding the information card (karti zaniyari) Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that it is acquired at the Asayish office. At the office IDPs are registered as well as information regarding the purpose of their stay and where they are staying. He explained that normally an IDP would carry the information card with him or her at all times.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) confirmed that it is no longer a requirement to have a sponsor in order to come to KRG, adding that the requirement was abolished at the end of 2008. However he added, at the checkpoints a person entering will be asked to name an acquaintance in KRG. He explained that he had friends visiting from Baghdad who he himself had to act as acquaintance for.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that in the reality KRG checkpoints do not operate with unified criteria for who may enter and who may not. Officially there is a uniform procedure however what is practiced at the checkpoints depends on the officer on duty.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) added that many IDPs had told KHRW that they found it easier prior to the implementation of uniform procedures at the checkpoints where one simply needed to know someone in KRG that sponsors him/her in order to enter. Now the bureaucracy and process of form-filling according to the purpose of one's entry at the checkpoint is time-consuming for IDPs.

When asked if Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) had heard of anyone being denied entry at a KRG checkpoint, he stated that it could depend on the mentality of the officer present at the checkpoint. Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that he had heard of some persons being denied entry without reason in 2008. It was added that arbitrary rejection of persons wishing to enter still occurs at the checkpoints.

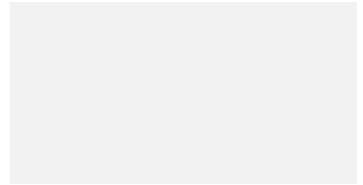
Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that officers at the checkpoints often inquire about a person's ethnicity when entering, i.e. whether a person is an Arab or a Kurd. He added that the behavior of some officers in their way of inquiry into a person's ethnic affiliation is discriminatory and not according to established procedures. Depending on who is at the checkpoint, a person could risk not

**Kommentar [H73]:** To "come" to KRG, IDPs dont need sponsor to enter to KRG for visit or pass through KRI, but they still need sponsor if they want to stay in KRI because they cant issue a residence card without a sponsor!

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being allowed entry. Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) informed that KHRW has submitted a plan for the training of officers at the checkpoints for 2010.



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**From:** Jens Weise Olesen  
**Sent:** 29. January 2010 15:14  
**To:** Hoshyar Malo  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@khrw.org; Vanessa Ostenfeld; Jens Weise Olesen  
**Subject:** VERY URGENT!!!SV: Meeting notes for approval  
  
**Priority:** High

Dear Hoshyar

Thank you for your reply. We have a question to your second and third comment regarding the need for residency permit and the need for a sponsor.

As we have both understood it, you stated that there is no longer a need for a residency permit and that the 'information card' has replaced the residence permit so to speak. Can you confirm this?  
And you also mentioned in your comment that a person wishing to stay needed someone to 'sponsor' him or her in order to be able given permission to stay. Could you please clarify what you mean by a sponsor? Is this sponsor a person whose purpose is only to identify a person wishing to reside for a longer period or permanently in KRG?

Please respond to us as soon as possible as we are working on the report as we speak.

Thank you, best regards  
Vanessa and Jens

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**From:** Hoshyar Malo ([REDACTED]@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** 29 January 2010 16:32  
**To:** Jens Weise Olesen  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@khrw.org; Vanessa Ostenfeld  
**Subject:** Re: VERY URGENT!!!SV: Meeting notes for approval

Dear Jens,

It seems that there is misunderstanding, its simply as following:

1- For visitors ( those Iraqis who want to pass through KRI) (or stay for few weeks) they only need to fill out Information card.

note: before Dec.2008 even for visitors they needed to have a sponsor in order to enter to KRI...but this is no longer needed.

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2- for IDPs ( those who want to stay for longer durations in KRI) they need the following:  
a- fill out the information card when they enter to KRI, this information card valid for few weeks.  
b- then before the expire of information card they need to find a Kurdish sponsor from KRI.  
c- then visiting the residence office with the sponsor to issue residence card, the residence card is for 3 months, and when they renew it for the second time will be for one year.

I hope its clear now,  
Best regards,  
Hoshyar

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**From:** Vanessa Ostenfeld  
**Sent:** 3 February 2010 10:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]@khrw.org; [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Jens Weise Olesen  
**Subject:** URGENT!!! Revised notes for approval  
**Attached files:** Hoshyar Malo revised notes.doc

**Priority:** High

Dear Hoshyar

Please have a careful look at the attached document which comprises your comments regarding **residence permit, entry pass** and **information card**.

As you can see, we have rewritten your statements and comments for comprehension purposes, as we were unable to understand parts of your comments. The written text attached here is how we have understood your statements on the matter.

Please note that the written text corresponds basically with what all other sources that we have consulted, have told us about KRI procedures for entry and stay, including statements from UNHCR. Therefore we had trouble understanding some of your comments. Please reply to us on whether or not you can confirm the statements that we have attached. If you have additional information to the statements, please add this after the text so as to avoid any confusion.

Thank you for taking the time to assist us. We would very much appreciate hearing from you today, as soon as possible.

Best regards

Vanessa and Jens



Attached file:

### **Residence permit, entry pass and information card**

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that earlier a ‘residency permit’ was issued to an IDP upon entry in KRI. In principle a residence permit is no longer required as all IDPs are considered Iraqis and thus do not need a permission to enter and stay in KRI. Before December 2008 even visitors needed to have a sponsor in order to enter KRI, but this is no longer a requirement. This requirement was abolished at the end of 2008.

However, at the checkpoints a person entering could still be asked to name an acquaintance in KRI. Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) stated that he had friends visiting from Baghdad who he himself had to act as acquaintance for.

Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) explained that now another card, called an ‘information card’ (karti zaniyari) is issued to IDPs in place of a ‘residence permit’. He informed that according to the Ministry of Interior and the Asayish, these ‘information cards’ are purely for security reasons and that the authorities have explained that “we need to know who the IDPs are”.

According to Hoshyar S. Malo (KHRW) an IDP entering KRI fills in an ‘entry pass’ at the checkpoint, which is valid for a few weeks. The ‘entry pass’ states the purpose of the entry which could be a longer stay, tourism or work. Before the expiry of the entry pass the IDP needs to identify an acquaintance residing in KRI and approach a residency section of the local Asayish office in order to have an ‘information card’ issued. The ‘information card’ is valid for three months and after its first renewal valid for one year.

At the Asayish office IDPs are registered as well as information regarding the purpose of their stay and where they are staying. He explained that normally an IDP would carry the ‘information card’ with him or her at all times.

Annex 6: KRG entry procedure cards: ‘tourism card’, ‘work card’ and ‘information card for those who wish to reside in KRI’

**H 94357 بطاقة الراغبين بالسياحة**

الاسم الرباعي واللقب .....  
 اسم المرافقين .....  
 1  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8

مسؤول السيطرة  
 الاسم  
 الرتبة  
 التاريخ

ملاحظة: على صاحب البطاقة الرجوع الى اخر سيطرة بغادر منها.

**بطاقة الراغبين بالسياحة**

اسم المرافق .....  
 رقم السيارة .....  
 النوع .....  
 رقم القاصي .....  
 رقم الهوية .....

**H 75084 بطاقة العمل**

الاسم الرباعي واللقب .....  
 المواليد و محل الولادة .....  
 عنوان السكن .....  
 رقم الهوية .....  
 جهة الاصدار .....  
 المهنة .....  
 عنوان محل العمل .....

مسؤول السيطرة  
 الاسم الكامل  
 الرتبة  
 التاريخ

**بطاقة العمل**

اسم الشركة .....  
 عنوانها .....  
 رقم الهاتف .....  
 رقم الهوية .....  
 توقيت .....  
 جهة الاصدار .....

بصمة انهم

**H 1718 بطاقة المعلومات للراغبين بالسكن**

الاسم الرباعي .....  
 المواليد .....  
 رقم السيارة .....  
 نوع .....  
 اسماء المرافقين .....  
 1  
 2  
 3  
 4

مسؤول السيطرة  
 الاسم الكامل  
 الرتبة  
 التاريخ

ملاحظة: يجب مراجعة المركز اعلاه خلال (24) ساعة.

**بطاقة المعلومات للراغبين بالسكن**

اسم الشركة .....  
 العنوان الكامل .....  
 رقم الهاتف .....  
 توقيت .....

بصمة انهم الكامل

### **Unofficial translation of entry cards:**

According to a translation of the cards obtained at the Mosul Checkpoint, the **purple card** is the card used for persons who wish to travel into KRG as tourists. The following information is to be filled in according to the print on the card: name, date of birth, name of escorts as well as name and rank of the person in charge at the checkpoint. On the reverse of the same card, there is space to fill in name of the driver, as well as specifications of vehicle.

The **orange card** is the card used for persons who wish to enter for work purposes. The following information is to be filled in according to the card's print: name, date and place of birth, address, ID card number and place of issuance, occupation, place of work as well as name and rank of the person in charge at the checkpoint. On the reverse of the same card, there is space to fill in information on name of company, address, telephone number, ID card number, signature and fingerprint.

The **rose-coloured card** is the 'information card for those who wish to reside in KRI'. The following information is to be filled in, according to the print on the card: name, date of birth, vehicle specifications, the names of escorts as well as the person in charge of the checkpoint. On the reverse of the same card, there is space to fill in information on name of company, address, telephone number, signature and fingerprint of 'guarantor'. It is noted on the card that one is required to contact the above Centre within (24) hours.



## Annex 7: PAC/PAO note on IDPs in Erbil

### Some information about IDPs major concern and problems in Erbil Governorate

In Erbil governorate according to Directorate of Displacement and Migration (DDM) there are about 11039 IDP families in Erbil, and there are no tents camps for IDPs or even there are no IDPs in any public buildings. On the level of individuals there are access for services like any legal services either in the courts or other government offices but on the group level there are some problems that faced IDPs and make obstacles to access to some services and the following are the major concerns:

1- DDM cash assistances for IDPs as a compensation for them this was decided from the Central Government: the amount which was supposed to be distributed was (900,000+100,000= 1,000,000\$, ) the process of distributing was started in Feb 2009 till Jun 2009, the Erbil DDM decided to cover as more number as they can so based on that they decided to distribute half of it 450, 000 ID and this not paid to all.

PAC recommend to UNHCR to talk to the decision makers in the Iraq Government Center to release and send the second payment to KRG for post samara IDPs to be distributed by DDM. But still the second amount is not released yet, but according to the DDM's manager speech it is related to the Iraq 2010 budget which is not decided yet. And it's expected to be released by March of 2010.

2- Registration of IDPs were stopped during this six months, this was make problem for a large number of IDP families, because they can benefit from this registration in three ways, first to prove the reality that they are IDPs, second they can receive time to time assistance from some international orgs which through DDM distribute their assistance of IDPs thirdly while they returning they will get benefit from DDM paper and based on it they can be assisted by government and organizations which are providing assistance to returnees.

3- The retirement salary (pension) for IDP families; there are problem between KRG and Central Government about the transferring of the retirement salary the only problem is that the central bank doesn't agree to send money for KRG to distribute on the IDPs those who has this salary in his original place and want to transfer it .

4- PAC worked before about three years ago and advocated for produce the temporary PDS card and succeeded and this card were given to more than 1,500 IDPs families, but in Iraq, formal PDS card is used as a one of necessary document for majority of governmental works and this temporary can not be used for this purpose. And in order to avoid duplication in receiving monthly FI by IDP the Directorate of Food Ration decided to keep the formal copy of the food ration card.

5- KRG currently stopped transferring PDS Card and this make problem for IDPs because the most vulnerable IDPs don't have any other source of income and they are in need to food item .

6-Transferee of employment services; because the KRG announced that they are overloaded in the number of employees therefore decided to stop transferring.

## **Abbreviations**

BMD – Bureau of Migration & Displacement, KRG  
CDO – Civil Development Organization  
DDM – Directorate of Displacement and Migration  
DIS – Danish Immigration Service  
GoI – Government of Iraq  
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross  
ID – Iraqi Dinar  
IDP – Internally Displaced Person  
IFA – Internal Flight Alternative  
INGO – International Non-Governmental Organization  
IOM – International Organization for Migration  
IRA – Internal Relocation Alternative  
KHRW – Kurdish Human Rights Watch  
KRG – Kurdistan Regional Government  
KRI – Kurdistan Region of Iraq  
MoDM – Ministry of Displacement & Migration, GoI  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization  
PAC – Protection and Assistance Center  
PAO – Public Aid Organization  
PDS – Public Distribution System  
PUK – Patriotic Union of Kurdistan  
S/C Iraq – South/Central Iraq  
SGBV – Sexual and Gender-Based Violence  
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
US – United States  
USD – US Dollars  
WFP – World Food Programme

## **Organizations, authorities and persons consulted**

Abdulkhaliq Mohammed, IDP, Sunni Arab from Baghdad.

Ali A. Jihangear, Representative of the GoI Ministry of Displacement and Migration to KRI, Baghdad/Erbil.

An International NGO, Erbil.

Arab IDP family, from Baghdad.

Atta Muhammad Ahmed, Director General, Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah.

Bakhtyar A. Salih, Projects Coordinator, Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah.

Captain Mohammad Mahmoud Amin, Responsible for Mosul Checkpoint, Kurdistan Regional Security Protection Agency, Security General Directorate, Erbil.

Charles Lynch-Staunton, Head of Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Erbil.

Christian IDP family, from Mosul.

Fakhir Ibrahim, Coordinator, Protection and Assistance Center (PAC)/Public Aid Organization (PAO), Erbil.

Fawzi Abdulahad Saida, Mukhtar of Maruda (108) and Ashti (270) districts of Ainkawa, Erbil

Friyal Mohammed Eid, IDP, Turkmen from Kirkuk.

General Gaywan Tawfeq, General Manager, Kurdistan Checkpoints, Kurdistan Regional Security Protection Agency, Security General Directorate, Erbil.

Ghassan Rada Hassan, IDP, Shia Arab from Baghdad.

Glizar Yousef, IDP, Christian Chaldean from Baghdad.

Halo Khalef Fairouz, IDP, Yazidi from Mosul.

Head of Political Department, Security Services, Asayish, KRG, Erbil.

Hikmat Omer Qadir, Manager, HARIKAR NGO/ Protection and Assistance Center (PAC), Dahuk.

Hoshyar S. Malo, Director, Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW), Erbil.

IOM Regional Hub-Northern Iraq, Erbil.

Jizif Isaq, Assyrian Christian from Baghdad.

Kamal Rauf, Editor in Chief, Hawlati newspaper, Sulemaniyah.

Kosar Salih, Lawyer, Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah.

Kurdish woman, IDP, from Mosul.

Kurdish woman, IDP, from Mosul.

Kurdish woman, IDP, from Mosul.

Kurdistan Omar, IDP, Kurd from Mosul.

Mahdi M. Qadir, Manager, Protection and Assistance Center (PAC)/Public Aid Organization (PAO), Erbil.

Renas J. Hassan, Programme Officer/Women Health Programme, Civil Development Organization (CDO), Sulemaniyah.

Safar Salih Amean, IDP, Kurd from Mosul.

Salah Y. Majid, Program Coordinator, HARIKAR NGO/ Protection and Assistance Center (PAC), Dahuk.

Shokr Yaseen Yaseen, Director, Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BMD), Ministry of Interior, Erbil.

UNHCR Field Office, Dahuk.

UNHCR Field Office, Sulemaniyah.

UNHCR, Amman.