

Iraqi Children Emergency 2009

To document, expose and stop the exploitation of Iraqi children by the occupation forces and the Iraqi government

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Cambridge, MA - The Institute of Near Eastern & African Studies (INEAS) is launching a campaign to document eyewitnesses from inside and outside Iraq who observed the kidnapping and/or the selling of Iraqi children and those who are able to locate kidnapped and sold children in their new environment. **This ongoing emergency is to accomplish the following:**

- Create a network of communities within Iraq and neighboring countries (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran and Kuwait) to monitor, provide alerts, exchange information and report to NGOs, families, the media and authorities to prevent children from being sold and especially from leaving Iraq.
- Document and expose child trafficking and foreign adoption cases.
- Pressure and help the authorities of neighboring countries pass regulations for the punishment of traffickers, and
- Support and prevent needy families from selling their children.

The extreme suffering of Iraqi children has been due to the killing and bombs, the deteriorating medical and health services, displacement, imprisonment and interruption of education. The ongoing displacement and/or the absence of one or both parents from children's life have made them vulnerable and put them in high risk. Orphans from poor families have been facing the most devastating condition than any segment of Iraqi society. They live in grave danger facing diseases, kidnapping and trafficking.

International adoption of children, which has been among many problems facing Iraqis since the 2003 war and occupation, would surely eliminate the cultural, religious, linguistic and social background of the adopted child.

Foreign adoption occurs mainly in the rich “First World” to fulfill certain elements of globalization by focusing on “Third World” poor children who are vulnerable and have no one to speak on their behalf. It requires the creation of a “center” of orphans from “Third World” countries that serves “First World” customers and provide them with a “supply” of children. **This is nothing, but slavery.**

Child traffickers often manipulate children and their poor parents into thinking that they are taken for “goodwill” adoption. Why would an adoption agency resort to such inhumane and secretive practices, unless the intended mission behind exporting children outside IRAQ is highly immoral and/or criminal?

<http://www.ineas.org/in/pj/20090505ice.htm>

Reports in 2008 and 2009 by Al-Jazeera, the Guardian and other media outlets confirmed the imprisonment of hundreds of Iraqi children. Majority of them have been sexually molested and some are killed or missing. These reports also confirmed the flourishing of child trafficking and some of their locations including the Green Zone as well as the selling of Iraqi children even by their parents.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/06/child-trafficking-iraq>
<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2008/01/200852519439276159.html>

We must collectively put an end to these crimes and help Iraqi children gain their basic needs and ensure their safety.

More information:

1. Child Trafficking in Iraq http://www.catchconference.org/about_trafficking.htm
2. Human Trafficking and Sexual exploitation in Iraq
http://www.childtrafficking.org/cgi-bin/ct/main.sql?file=view_document.sql&TITLE=-1&AUTHOR=-1&THESAURO=-1&ORGANIZATION=-1&TOPIC=-1&GEOG=-1&YEAR=-1&LISTA=No&COUNTRY=-1&FULL_DETAIL=Yes&ID=2400
3. Iraqi Mother Commits Suicide for Selling Her Baby
<http://zennobia.blogspot.com/2009/07/iraqi-mother-commits-suicide-for.html>
4. Child Traffickers Target Iraq
<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=m41470&hd=&size=1&l=e>
5. Child Traffickers Target Iraq (with Arabic translation)
http://www.almosul.org/Library/2008/802_Child_Traffickers_AdasB.htm
6. Trafficking in Iraq - Special Cases
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,USDOS,,IRQ,4562d8cf2,484f9a4cc,0.html>