



Unofficial translation

# **The Humanitarian and Tragic situation of the Refugees of Al –Fallujah**

This is a brief review for some realities and events related to sufferings of refugees of Al Fallujah City due to the American invasion. We forward this report to UN Secretary General, the International committee of Red Cross, High Commissioner of Human Rights and all concerned International Organizations to exercise their responsibilities in this regard.

The numbers of refugees at this very moment reach to about 35000, most of them living areas near Al-Fallujah, such as Al- Saqlawiya, Al -Habbaniya Tourist city, Al- A'meriya complex, Al-Habbaniya Camp, Al- Khldiyah, Al-karma, Khan Dhari and some other places surrounding Al-Fallujah while many others immigrated to the nearby Al-Anbar province and Baghdad.

The refugees had been placed at random in places which were unfit to for refugees. As a matter of fact there were 6000 family inhabited in Al-Karma area and 2500 family at Al- A'meriya complex in a density of 25-30 persons in one flat.

Here are two examples of the real situation of the refugees:

### **First: Al Saqlawiya Area:**

More that 4500 families consisting of more than 18000 refugees (few of them living with their relatives) are living now in schools, camps, some Governmental establishment, police stations and poultry farms. 60 families are living in Al-Saqlawiya Secondary School, 34 in a nearby camp of tents, 25 in a kindergarten, 7 in the police station of Al- Saqlawiya and 35 families in Al- Shuhada'a Area.

Summary of the situation:

- 1- Mass immigration movements were started at the very beginning of Fallujah besiege and heavy bombardment of Al-Fallujah in early November, 2004. When the invasion started on 8/11/2004, U.S. troops closed all the roads surrounding the area and placed the city under strict besiege, a move that create a very tragic and dangerous situation due to depletion of foodstuff and rocketed prices of food high in the sky. In the meantime food supplies donated by Al-Saqlawiya residents and other organizations were not enough to meet refugees' needs but 40% of them only.
- 2- With a full astonishment, Trade ministry did not convey the refugees their monthly quota of foodstuff, despite the fact that all of them being officially registered in the program of the Ministry. Since then, they did not receive their right of foodstuff quota for the months of September, October and November. The Ministry had distributed the quotas of Al-Saqlawiya inhabitants, but not the refugees of Fallujah who are living either with them or in the nearby.
- 3- According to doctors in the area, Health Ministry did not agree to provide medical care to the huge number of refugees. This led to a humanitarian catastrophe which caused the death for many of refugees who did not find the simplest necessary medical treatment, even though such services were always very humble and weak. Besides, the existing medical team is insufficient to deal with daily needs of Al Saqlawiya inhabitants themselves, not talking about the new comers of refugees. As a result, epidemics were spread over which is forming a very grave situation.
- 4- Diseases such as: diarrhea, skin sickness, scabies and infections (inflammations) asthma and other chronic diseases, had been spread over. Besides there are no working hospitals in the area

where the refugees had immigrated live. Other hospitals are far away by more than 50 Km towards Baghdad or Al-Ramadi the capital of Al Anbar Province.

- 5- The huge number of separated refugees' centers, lack of fuel and disruption of transportation had negatively affected the activities of the medical services.

## **Second: The situation in Al -Habbaniya Tourist city:**

More than 1553 immigrated families consisting more than 12,500 persons out of them about 5000 child below 5 years were in urgent need for milk. Most of them are living in the City installations and even in unsuitable places which do not adapted for human being such as: garages, stores, small tents and other unhealthy places. The town of AL-Habbaniya consists of 580 houses, which became as an open jail no one could go to any alternative place.

Sufferings of refugees can be summarized as follows:

- 1- Because of the lack of sufficient places, indeed we found 3-4 families live in the same place; as a rate, more than 13 persons are lodging in one room, or 5 persons live in one small tent, there is an urgent need to 150 - 200 tents more.
- 2- Neither the Human Organizations nor the Governmental departments offered support parallel to the required volume, but only the committee of the Red Cross had installed a small water refinery to secure drinking water; before that people used to drink salty water from the neighboring lake.
- 3- Cold weather which registered degrees below zero combined with bad and polluted nutrition, caused many diseases especially among children.
- 4- Fuel scarcity (equity for each family is half a litter a day) and the chilly weather led to raise fuel prices high in the sky, for example the price for the black oil reached to 750 Iraqi Dinar, which mean twenty folds more than ordinary prices.
- 5- Most of the people are jobless since three months; their reserve had been exhausted; many of them started to sell personal belongs to buy food. Not a single governmental establishment offered aids, nor an international or local organization had granted any help. This is really suppressing.
- 6- Scarcity of humanitarian aids, especially foodstuff, had obliged the citizens or the refugees to buy food in very high prices.
- 7- Not a single governmental official had visited the refugees nor the Ministry of Trade offered them any equity for the last 3 successive months nor it offer them any support to enabling them to survive.
- 8- The Ministry of Health did not offer any medical aids, this is evidenced by doctors who asserted that the Health Minister did interfere personally to impede and prevent such aids to reach the refugees. Only few aids had reached which could not meet the essential needs of the refugees. Even the required injections were not completely available, so they were obliged to transport sick persons to Baghdad which far away by 55 Km. As a result, some elderly sick were died on the way.

It is needless to say that polluted food and water besides the lack of medical services will increase death rates. According to a report from the Iraqi Red Crescent, this organization is suffering 70% diminution in the logistic medical items.

## **Proposals**

Due to the huge destruction that inflicted the Iraqi infrastructure and to most of refugees' houses at Fallujah City, so a large number of them will remain as refugees for along time to come. Actually, many of them were obliged to return back to the places originally immigrated to after seeing (24/12/2004) the huge destruction inflicted to their houses by U.S. forces. Every one now saying it is impossible to live at Fallujah for the time being. This catastrophic situation requires urgent procedures to resolve. Among these solutions:

- 1- To send urgently large quantities of foodstuff aids, milk and medicines enough to meet the needs of this number of refugees.
- 2- To prepare suitable residential lodgings and subsidize equipped with essential requirements such as installing water refineries, potable water and to establish clinics for health care.
- 3- To oblige or concluding an agreement with the Trade & Commerce Ministry to provide the monthly foodstuff equities for every family deprived from it.
- 4- To establish liaisons stations for the International Organizations within the areas that refugees are living, to stop U.S. troops' provocations to the refugees.
- 5- To establish mobile field hospitals including halls to operate surgeries, start vaccination campaign to prevent the spread out of contagious and transmissible diseases and launch integral vaccinations for children of all age categories.

**Studies Center of Human Rights & Democracy  
For/ The Civil Network Organizations at Al-Fallujah City**

**Al- Fallujah 14/01/2005**