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

**In the Crosshairs**

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

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

**Enemy at the Gates**

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

**International Solidarity**

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

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

**Welcome.**

Salah Ahmad • President

Michael Lehmann • Vice President
**Our Values**

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

**Our History**

In 2005, we started our activities in the multiethnic city of Kirkuk, where we opened the first rehabilitation center for victims of torture in Iraq. Since then, we have established several branches throughout Kurdistan-Iraq where more than 13,000 traumatized men, women and children have received help.

**Our Work**

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

**Our Mission**

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

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

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

Our Team

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

Our Partners

Since its inception, the Jiyan Foundation has cooperated very closely with the Berlin Center for Torture Victims in Germany. In Iraq, our team coordinates with a wide range of non-governmental organizations as well as health institutions and governmental agencies.
According to the United Nations Resolution concerning the Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation, states have an obligation to prevent gross violations of international human rights law. They have the duty to investigate these violations promptly and thoroughly, to prosecute and punish perpetrators of crimes, and to provide effective remedies to victims who individually or collectively suffered harm – including physical or mental injury and emotional suffering.

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

Justice for Victims of Torture

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Treatment of Victims

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

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

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

Articles 1, 3, 5 • Universal Declaration of Human Rights
the German Foreign Office, the Jiyan Foundation has established a network of safe spaces where an interdisciplinary team assists traumatized victims in voicing their needs, reasserting their dignity and claiming their rights.

Remedies and Reparations

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

Expanding our Scope

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

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

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

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

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

More than a decade after the fall of the Saddam regime and a quarter-century after the genocidal campaign against the Kurdish people, survivors of atrocities are still waiting for compensation.
Our psychotherapists initially struggled with the elderly woman, who had never heard of psychotherapy before and was skeptical about the concept. However, she enjoyed talking freely without being interrupted and soon gained trust in our treatment.

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

**Compensation**

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

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

**Ethnic Cleansing**

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

Until this day, the Jiyan Foundation is the only organization in Iraq offering comprehensive medical and psychotherapeutic services to Anfal survivors. Generous support from the German Foreign Office has allowed us to establish a rehabilitation center for victims of chemical attacks in Halabja, and to launch several mobile teams reaching out to traumatized families living in impoverished rural areas.
Minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable population groups and prone to human rights violations. Their protection and rehabilitation has become more important than ever.

Assisting Syrian Refugees

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

Many of these refugees have experienced traumatic events. Some of them have witnessed atrocities and lost their relatives due to acts of war. Others have suffered detention, inhuman treatment and torture at the hands of government forces or Islamist militias. All of them have lost their homes and livelihood.

With support from Misereor, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau, the Jiyán Foundation has been able to assist more than 8000 traumatized Syrian refugees in Iraq. Our branches in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah
provide individuals and families with free medical and psychosocial services. Mobile teams reach out to refugees in the camps Domiz and Arbat.

**Defending Pluralism**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I Always Tell Them to Be Strong

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

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

Women’s therapist from Kirkuk

Treating the Damage

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

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

THE PLIGHT OF YAZIDI WOMEN

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

Campaign for the protection of single and divorced women in Kurdistan
Amir, Faizah and Nebez are three out of hundreds of child patients. They are among the most vulnerable survivors of violence and need a stable and healing environment.

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

Amir (14), from Tikrit

Amir is an Arab boy from Tikrit. When the IS terror group captured his family, they threatened his father: "Your son must join us or we will kill your family!" Amir obeyed in order
I will never forget that moment when we locked our front door in Syria. I love Sulaymaniyah because there are no explosions and I never see dying people and I can go out whenever I want. But I am always praying for Syria to become safe again. I want to go back home.

“Children’s Rights”

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

Faizah (12), from Hasaka in Syria

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

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

Nebez (5), from Chamchamal

Nebez is the child of a forced marriage. His family is very poor and extremely violent. Our staff soon realized that Nebez’ parents’ abusive past was the most important factor leading to an ongoing climate of family violence. Beatings, alcohol abuse, imprisonment, death and poverty are recurring experiences in the boy’s life and environment.

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

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

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

Children’s Rights | 13
Access to Education and Information

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

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

Different Audiences

Between 2013 and 2014, our human rights education program at schools reached a total of 4300 students. Complementing their official curriculum, we taught them their rights and ways to claim them, proposed solutions to everyday problems and fears but also addressed difficult topics such as abuse, violence and suicide.

The prevention of conflicts and violence is a topic important to both children and adult survivors of human rights violations and other vulnerable groups, including female prisoners, people living in remote areas with little access to education and patients with psychological problems. Yet, survivors and the most vulnerable additionally need information on mental health, human rights, gender-based violence,
child rearing and trauma. Throughout the last two years, almost 2500 women and men have benefited from our empowerment seminars specifically on these topics.

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

**Reaching out Through the Media**

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

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

**FROM A HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION TO A HUMAN RIGHTS NGO**

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

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

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

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

“*These are Your Rights*: seminar for primary school class
We Remain our Glimmer of Hope

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Something important about our staff must be mentioned and this is how they care about each other. When our colleague was wounded, they took her to hospital and stayed with her until her family arrived.”
When they look at the future, they are worried about the next generation and find comfort in the idea that our work can make a change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assuming that toppling the terror regime could put an end to all problems has definitely proven to be wrong. We do have democratic principles and features in Iraq, including a parliament, elections, free media. However, to what extent are they protecting democratic principles?

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

We have deep concerns due to the fact that there is freedom, but no equal distribution of this freedom. Most society members are deprived of the most basic forms of freedom. In contrast, several groups enjoy absolute freedom and can carry out crimes without being held responsible.
Eleven years after the fall of the regime, the government should seize the opportunity and work towards a democratic system. Sadly, only few of us are currently proud of being "Iraqi".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We all know at least one person who suffered from torture and whom we need to help. Hundreds of rehabilitation centers are required to help those affected in order to, once again, become active and optimistic members of society.

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

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

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

Client Statistics | in N° and %

- **Girls**: 19% (1083 in 2013, 1056 in 2014)
- **Total**: 1083 (2013), 1056 (2014)

- **Boys**: 20% (1095 in 2013, 1025 in 2014)
- **Total**: 1095 (2013), 1025 (2014)

- **Women**: 49% (2725 in 2013, 2679 in 2014)
- **Total**: 2725 (2013), 2679 (2014)

- **Men**: 12% (670 in 2013, 844 in 2014)
- **Total**: 670 (2013), 844 (2014)

- **Residents of Kurdistan-Iraq**: 49% (2725 in 2013, 2679 in 2014)
- **Syrian Refugees**: 48% (2700 in 2013, 2650 in 2014)
- **Internally Displaced Persons**: 3% (88 in 2013, 79 in 2014)

- **Total Clients**: 5573 (2013), 5604 (2014)

Graph showing client statistics by month for 2013 and 2014, with categories for Residents of Kurdistan-Iraq, Syrian Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons.
### Some Figures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2467 women</td>
<td>participated in self-help and empowerment groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>95 interviews</td>
<td>for local media, including TV and radio stations, newspapers and online magazines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A dozen social media campaigns</td>
<td>helped to increase supporters from 5000 to 36,000 and reached more than 1.2 million persons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1468 persons</td>
<td>benefited from seminars and lectures on human rights issues.</td>
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<td>About 4300 students and pupils</td>
<td>attended human rights education seminars in schools.</td>
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<td>60 staff</td>
<td>took part in some 400 hours of training and supervision.</td>
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</table>

### Statistics

- **68%** of our patients sought help for pain or medical complaints.
- **46%** of our patients have never learned to read or write.
- **77%** of our patients have a family member who has disappeared or has been killed.
- **83%** of our female patients are housewives.
- **47%** of our adult patients suffer from depression, anxiety disorders or stress reactions.
- **37%** of our patients are not or only partly able to work.
- **64%** of our patients sought help for psychological complaints.
- **60%** of our patients have experienced more than one traumatic incident in their lives.
- **76%** of our patients have never attended school or have only finished primary school.
- **64%** of our patients have experienced more than one traumatic incident in their lives.

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

40,000 km² approximate area

20 years median age

5,500,000 resident population

15 ethnic and religious minorities

9 languages and dialects spoken

74% voter turnout in 2013: Iraqi Kurdistan parliamentary election

US$ 13 billion 2013 budget

17 political parties represented

38% female parliamentarians

100 parliamentary seats

11 reserved for minorities

Literacy rate 70%
The Iraqi Kurdistan Region is a region within the Federal State of Iraq. It is a democratic republic with a parliamentary political system that is based on political pluralism, the principle of separation of powers, and the peaceful transfer of power through direct, general, and periodic elections that use a secret ballot.

800,000+ internally displaced persons hosted in 2014

2300 foreign companies in Kurdistan

7000 years continuous inhabitation of Erbil

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

200,000+ Syrian refugees hosted in 2014

1991 2014

1300 5000+
public and private schools

1 30+
universities and colleges

0 20+
international diplomatic representations

36% population aged 0-14 years
Abbas Mohammed Qadir  
Guard

Dr. Abdulkarim Khidhir Abbas  
Psychiatrist

Abobakr Omar Ismaiel Al-Salhi  
Physiotherapist

Dr. Adnan Asaad Tahir  
Psychiatrist

Aghdas Mohammad Fateh  
Receptionist

Ahmed Ali Ahmed  
Receptionist

Akam Ali Saeed  
Medical Doctor

Ako Abdulkareem Abdulwahed  
Therapist

Ako Faiq Mohammed  
Local Branch Manager

Ali Ahmad Awlla  
Therapist

Amanj Hussein  
Medical Doctor

Anas Ibrahim Ameen  
Medical Doctor

Antonia Hess  
Intern

Aram Karim Hama-Amin  
Medical Doctor

Aras Hewa Majeed  
Therapist

Araz Abdulrahman Amad  
Therapist

Araz Kakil Amin  
Medical Doctor

Arazu Bakir Salah  
Therapist

Asma Yousif Mahamad  
Therapist

Avan Abdulla Faraj  
Receptionist

Aveen Mustafa Hameed  
Therapist

Aveen Shahab Aziz  
Therapist

Avin Sabah Abdullah  
Therapist

Awara Abdulqader Mustafa  
Therapist

Awder Abubakir Said-Hamalaw  
Therapist

Azad Mustafa Qader  
Local Branch Manager

Azhin Hashim Tayib  
Therapist

Azmar Mohammed-Jamal  
Driver

Baida Abdulaziz Mirza  
Medical Doctor

Bakhtiar Hadi Hassan  
Pedagogue

Banu Mohammed Hilmy  
Volunteer

Baravan Ismat Mohamad  
Driver

Barham Zainalddin Sahib  
Medical Doctor

Barik Sadalah Khider  
Driver

Bayan Azizi  
Board

Bilind Barzan Ameen  
Therapist

Bizar Neamat Sulaiman  
Therapist

Bland Bayar Khaleel  
Medical Doctor

Chea Najmaden Kader  
Therapist

Chenar Seerwan Ahmad  
Therapist

Chnur Ahmed Husein  
Janitor

Chnur Younis Mustafa  
Medical Doctor

Dana Khalid Hameed  
Therapist

Daniel Crampton  
Legal Advisor

Darya Dilshad Yaeaa  
Accountant / IT Officer

Delman Muhammed Kareem  
PR Officer

Deraw Jamal Mahmod  
Therapist

Diler Ahmad Ali  
Therapist

Dilam Salah Ibrahim  
Therapist

Elham Shamon Khames  
Janitor

Dr. Entesar Majed Suliman  
Gynecologist

Essam Abdel-Hameed Ahmed  
Therapist

Fakhir Mohammad Abbas  
Therapist

Farsat S. Saadi  
Medical Doctor

Fatma Mahmood Abdullah  
Janitor

Friederike Regel  
Project Coordinator / Board

Forough Pourchi Kangarloo  
Volunteer

Fuad Ahmed Mohammed  
Therapist

Fuad Hamad Amen Ismael  
Janitor

Gaylan Kemal Anwer  
Local Director

Ghaliib Qadr Hamza  
Guard

Gharbia Jaafar Bahry  
Therapist

Gorlan Latif Mohammed  
Therapist

Gorlan Mohammed Rasul  
Therapist

Gulala Ali Raza  
Janitor

Hana Kegebad Hussein  
Accountant / IT

Hardi Mohammed Dhahir  
Medical Doctor

Hardi Kareem Jalal  
Medical Doctor

Hashim Abdullah Mohammad  
Lawyer

Hassan Habib Muhammed  
Janitor

Hawdang Tal’at Mohammed  
Receptionist

Hawkar Usmar Amad  
Therapist

Hawre Rasool Raza  
Therapist

Dr. Hawzhin Fazil Mahmood  
Medical Specialist

Hedayat Omer Abdullah  
Driver

Hedi Mohammed Dhahir  
Therapist

Heerish Saadi Azuo  
Therapist

Hero Ahmed Chafoor  
Therapist

Hive Shaban Muhammad  
Receptionist

Hoshyar Murad Hama-Yousif  
Medical Doctor

Ibrahim Ahmad Faraj  
Gardener

Ibrahim Askandar Abdulla  
Medical Doctor

Ibrahim Hama-Sa’ed Mohammed  
Therapist

Idris Haji Ahmed  
Medical Doctor

Iran Abdoljabar Ahmed  
Therapist

Imad Jalal Habibullah  
Medical Doctor

Dr. Jamal Omar Tawfeeq  
Psychiatrist

Dr. Jasim Mohammed Shindi  
Psychiatrist

Jihad Assi Mam Azeez  
Therapist

Jihad Ibrahim Hama  
Medical Doctor

Jiyan Osman Selem  
Therapist

Juan Matin  
Intern

Jwana Salah Faraj  
Therapist

Kafia Anwar Jum’a  
Janitor

Karim Kaka-Ameer Kareem  
Driver

Khalat Akram Hama Rashid  
Receptionist
Khalil Akram Mohammed
Physiotherapist

Kunaf Mohammad Meho
Receptionist

Koher Abdulsalam Mohammed
Medical Doctor

Kwestan Mohamad Karim
Medical Doctor

Laila Ahmed Saleh
Therapist

Lanja Salam Ali
Therapist

Layla Rifat Tawfeeq
Therapist

Leif Hinrichsen
Project Associate

Lena Otte
Project Assistant

Madih Hama Salih
Therapist

Dr. Mahmood Qasim Mahmood
Psychiatrist

Makwan Muhammed
Medical Doctor

Mazin Hadi Shwani
Lawyer

Meran Rafiq Abda
Pedagogue

Michael Lehmann
Vice-President / Board

Mohamed Wajdi Ibrahim
Medical Doctor

Mohammed Abdulkaijem
Medical Doctor

Mohammed Nidham Abdalla
Medical Doctor

Mohammed Qadir Abdulla
Guard

Mohammed Saber Kareem
Therapist

Mohammed Sobhan Mohammed
Medical Doctor

Mohammed Wali Abdulla
Therapist

Murad Tariq Hussein
Medical Doctor

Nabaz Azwar Ahmed
Therapist

Nazar Farhad Mahmood
Medical Doctor

Nieven Salahaldien Aziz
Medical Doctor

Nihayat Bakir Abdurrahman
Medical Doctor

Ninos Sargon Yonan
Driver

Nihtiman Ali Hussen Xalid
Receptionist

Noor-Allhuda Dhiaa Khalaf
Receptionist

Nouchin Ibrahim Abdullah
Therapist

Omer Ali Mohammed
Therapist

Othman Jalal Sahb
Medical Doctor

Dr. Perjan Hashim Taha
Psychiatrist

Qamar Ramdan Yaseen
Janitor

Rabin Ikbre Badal
Therapist

Rangin Raies Mohealdin
Therapist

Raul Ignacio Romanutti
Intern

Rawas Mohammed Abdullah
Pedagogue

Rebeen Ali Mohammed
Administration

Rebin Ahmad
Intern

Rebaz Ahmad
Intern

Rebwar Kamal Hama
Physiotherapist

Rizgar Abdullquadir Bahadeen
Therapist

Rizgar Qadir Rahman
Therapist

Roaa Abdulfatah Abdullah
Medical Doctor

Rospin Noel Baito
Local Director

Rozhan Omer Ali
Therapist

Dr. Rushdy Ali Mirza Jaff
Clinical Supervisor

Sabine Schimpf
Researcher

Salah Ahmad
President / Board

Salar Mohammad Ameen
Medical Doctor

Sana` Dawod Mikhaeel
Janitor

Sara Abdulla Mohammed
Therapist

Sardar Mohamad Rashed
Driver

Sareen Abdulla Muhammed
Therapist

Sargul Abubakir Hassan
Therapist

Sarmad Adnan
Medical Doctor

Sarwat Jamal Abdul-Qadir
Therapist

Sarwat Ahmad Abdulqader
Pharmacist

Sazan Muhsin Ahmed
Administrative Assistant

Sdiq Muhamad Hasan
Receptionist

Shadan Abdulmajid Kadir
Physiotherapist

Shadan Hamalaw Radha
Therapist

Shahab Aziz Ali
Driver

Shahla Yaseen Hesein
Therapist

Shaima Khalil Ibrahim
Therapist

Shaima Yousif Mahamad
Therapist

Shano Ismail Mhe-Alddin
Receptionist

Shareef Jawdat Ali
Local Director / Board

Sharmeen Zainal Mohamad
Therapist

Shawkat Haji Saeed
Physiotherapist

Shwan Abdulstar Hesen
Therapist

Sino Erfan Salih
Physiotherapist

Sipal Abdulmnaf Ali
Physiotherapist

Sirwa Najmaldin Jalal Al-Jaf
Pediatrician

Snur Samad Mahmoud
Medical Doctor

Solan Sherko Mahdi
Medical Doctor

Dr. Stefanie Schmidt
Volunteer

Su`ad Ali Mohammad
Receptionist

Suaad Shlemon Adam
Janitor

Vaman Remzi Sediq As`ad
Therapist

Viyan Azad Shauqi
Therapist

Dr. Wahid Ablahad Harmz
Psychologist

William Yousif Slif
Administrative Assistant / Accountant

Yadgar Natiq Abbas
Medical Doctor

Yousha Odisho Warda
Local Director / Board

Zabit Yalda Esbo
Janitor

Zainab Muhy Al-Deen Rasheed
Medical Doctor

Zana Mahdi Arif
Medical Doctor

Zewar Abdibaki Ahmad
Therapist

Zhiyan Hamad Abdullah
Receptionist

Zhvun Hashem Abdulbaqi
Therapist

Zhiyan Hamad Abdullah
Therapist

Zhiyan Hamad Abdullah
Receptionist

Zhuban Adil Omer
Therapist

Ziyad Abduljabar Tah.
Therapist
Refugees & central and northern Iraq project in urban areas of Duhok and Nineveh
• inter-ethnic dialogue

Minorities
• project for victims of religious persecution in war-torn areas in Iraq
• therapeutic treatment for refugees from Syria and victims of Anfal campaign living in rural areas
• legal counseling for survivors seeking redress

Terrorism
• mobile outreach for victims of the Halabja • mobile outreach to juvenile prisons and orphanages

Survivors of Torture & Terrorism
• outreach to women’s prisons and shelters

Women’s Rights
• age-specific medical and psychotherapeutic treatment • family counseling and awareness-raising to prevent domestic violence • outreach to women’s prisons and shelters

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

Democracy & Civil Society
• political decision-makers • global fundraising and advocacy to support democracy and human rights in Iraq • consultancy for civil society initiatives in the Middle East and worldwide

International Cooperation
• joint human rights projects with NGOs outside Iraq

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

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

Consultants
General Counsel
Legal Advisor
External Auditor
Trainers & Supervisors

Office & Chart | 29

Board of Directors

President
Director-General

Director of External Affairs

Director of Project Development

Director of Strategy

Director of Medical Services

Vice-President

Director of Legal Affairs

Manager Kirkuk Branch

Manager Sulaymaniyah Branch

Manager Halabja Branch

Manager Chamchamal Branch

Manager Duhok Branch

Public Relations Officer

Manager Erbil Branch

Offices & Chart  |  29
Donors and Supporters

- Auswärtiges Amt (German Foreign Office)
- BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- European Commission
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- MISEREOR
- Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria)
- Foundation Wings of Hope
- Lutheran World Federation
Other Supporters

Deler Mustafa, Director of Duhok Office for Human Rights
Dr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed, Directorate of Health, Head of Technical Department, Duhok
Dr. Hunar Jaafer, General Director of Halabja Health Directorate
Health Directorate of Kirkuk
International Organization for Migration, Kirkuk Branch
Iraqi Institute of Political Prisoners
Islamic Union of Kurdistan, Chamchamal
Jörg Armbruster
Kirkuk Journalist Institute
Kurdistan Democratic Party
Kurdistan Institute of Political Prisoners
Mayor and City Council of Hesar district
Mayor of Qerehencir district
Mayor of Shwan district
Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft, Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Health, Kurdistan Region
Ministry of Human Rights, Iraq
Muhsen Saleh Ketany, former Member of the Kurdistan Parliament
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
PDK, Chamchamal

Prof. Dr. Friedbert Pflüger
Shahidan Amusement Park, Chamchamal
Shoraw Hospital, Kirkuk

Donations

Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq (CAPNI)
DEHOGA Kreisverband Celle
Kloster Karmel Regina Martyrum
Kurdistan Democratic Party, Shorish Branch, Chamchamal
Merhamet Deutschland e.V.
Papatya. Anonyme Kriseneinrichtung für junge Migrantinnen
Pflüger International GmbH
Plan Company
SALT Foundation
Schmuck TV
We are building a healing garden for traumatized children and families in Chamchamal. You can help with your donation!

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

Your support will transform our plans into action!

How to Help

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

Donation Account
Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights
Bank fuer Sozialwirtschaft Berlin
BIC/SWIFT: BFSWDE33BER
IBAN: DE14100205000003139601

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

Betterplace
You may also make donations through www.betterplace.org/en. Betterplace is a German-based donation platform and forwards 100% of the donation to the cause.