Joint Commitment for Rapid Assistance in Northern Iraq

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights and bzfo assist Internally Displaced Persons with relief package in Iraq.

Berlin, 07 July 2014

Emergency Supply launched in Kurdistan
Within a few days, the number of refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan has reached 600,000, adding 400,000 IDPs, who have fled the expanding ISIS offensive in Mosul and central Iraq, to the 200,000 Syrian civil war refugees. Due to the urgency of the situation, the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, partner organization of the bzfo, has decided to distribute care packages and to offer medical emergency treatment in especially neglected areas. For the handling of the current situation, the Jiyan Foundation calls upon national and international donors and organizations to increase their efforts in the region. More precisely, additional shelter opportunities, health services and education for the children will be needed in the near future, as long as the security situation does not significantly improve in the hometowns of the displaced.

Alarming Supply Situation in the City of Chamchamal
Particularly the situation in the city of Chamchamal in the governorate of Sulaymaniyah is worrisome. “People arrive completely exhausted and have nothing. Although most of them initially stay with relatives or in rented apartments, their savings will be quickly used up. They lack food, water, medicine and sanitary products. And all of that with an average temperature of 45 degrees”, explains Salah Ahmad, project coordinator and founder of the Jiyan Foundation. “We are already receiving reports of malnourished children”, he further adds. The German Catholic Bishops’ Organization for Development Cooperation, MISEREOR, has provided short-term funding which the Jiyan Foundation will use to meet the basic needs of the IDPs in Chamchamal. Besides this, they will undergo medical examinations and, if necessary, be referred to one of the rehabilitation centers of the Foundation.

The Jiyan Foundation was originally founded as Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims and is a human rights organization offering free rehabilitation services to survivors of torture and inhuman treatment in Iraq. By now, the Foundation has established six centers in Iraqi Kurdistan, one of them in Chamchamal.

The bzfo (Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims) has been treating victims of torture and war-time violence since 1992. People from around 50 countries mainly from Chechnya, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the Balkans and African countries seek help. Women, men, adolescents and children receive both medical and psychotherapeutic help as well as social assistance.