



## Support hundreds of Iranian refugees stranded at the Jordanian border!

*'We are suffering under inhuman conditions. We are perishing here from miserable conditions and disease. Here, there is so much dust and sandstorms that everyone has fallen ill. We have absolutely no provisions. We look to you who are carrying the banner of freedom and equality to support us. As the representative of 600 Iranian refugees at the border of Jordan, we ask you to assist us. Convey our message to the world. Help us by any means you can.'*

This is what a representative of Iranian refugees stranded in the no-man's land separating Jordan and Iraq at Al Karama told the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) and the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) in telephone conversations

since April 20, 2003. The numbers are increasing every hour. Many of the Iranian refugees languishing at the border have fled from Al-Tash refugee camp in Iraq due to the war, bombardment, and insecurity. They are facing miserable conditions, lack of medical provisions,

decent food and shelter and are in a state of limbo.

Despite calls to open its borders, the Jordanian government continues to refuse the refugees entry. The



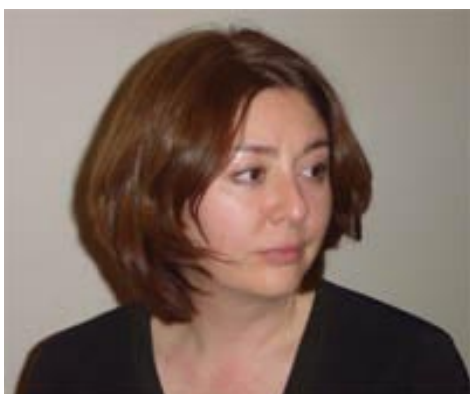
Worker-communist Party of Iran - Organisation Abroad

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Sign our petition defending Iranian refugees stranded at Jordanian border: <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/IFIRWPI/petition.html>

## Maryam Namazie's open letter to the Jordanian government on Iranian refugees stranded at its borders

April 22, 2003



Mr. Ali Abu Ragheb  
Prime Minister  
Amman, Jordan  
Fax: 464 - 2520

Mr. Qaftan Majali  
Minister of Interior  
Amman, Jordan  
Via fax: 560 - 6908

Dear Messieurs Ragheb and Majali:

I am writing on behalf of the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) and the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) to raise our strongest opposition to the Jordanian government's refusal to permit the entry of the over 1,000 refugees, many of them Iranians, and including over

400 children and infants, who are stranded at the windswept no-man's-land separating Jordan and Iraq at Al Karama. Refugees who are stranded there have informed us that the numbers are now nearing 2,000 and are increasing every hour. Some of the refugees have been waiting weeks to enter Jordan.

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## Maryam Namazie's open letter to the Jordanian government on Iranian refugees stranded at its borders, from page 1

The stranded Iranian refugees are mainly political opponents of the Islamic regime in Iran who have fled Al-Tash refugee camp in Iraq as a result of the USA and Britain's attack on Iraq and the resulting insecurity or are members of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) who have fled the USA attack on their bases in Iraq. The refugees are currently living in abysmal conditions without proper shelter and food and no sanitation and health services. Some are critically ill and need urgent hospitalisation. There are also fears of an impending outbreak of diseases such as cholera and dysentery. While a human catastrophe is unfolding and conditions are deteriorating, the Jordanian government persists in refusing the refugees entry.

By obstructing their entry into Jordan, the Jordanian government is contravening internationally recognised norms of providing refuge to persons in need of protection as well as the agreement reached between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Jordan's Minister of Interior

concerning the provision of international protection and humanitarian assistance to persons in need. The WPI and IFIR stress that: all the refugees must be granted entry, given the necessary assistance and protected from deportation, including to Iran. According to statements by Jordanian officials, the Jordanian government is contacting respective embassies to 'ensure their repatriation'. The refugees stranded at the border are persons who have fled persecution by the Islamic regime in Iran and are opponents of the regime. Upon their forcible return to Iran, they will likely face execution, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. They must not be refouled to Iran under any circumstances. Moreover, their right to asylum must be recognised. While Jordan is a non-signatory to the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, it must provide the UNHCR the opportunity to conduct status determinations and refugee resettlement to safe third countries. From our perspective, all the Iranians must be granted refugee



status and resettlement. The few who have already been granted refugee status from before must be immediately transferred to their country of asylum.

The WPI and IFIR call on the Jordanian government to:

1. Open its borders to Iranian refugees, among others.
2. Provide the necessary food, shelter, health care and sanitation to the refugees in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
3. Recognise the right to asylum of Iranians.

We look forward to your immediate intervention

regarding this critical issue. Needless to say, the Jordanian government is accountable for the lives and safety of the refugees stranded at its borders.

Sincerely,

Maryam Namazie  
On behalf of the Worker-communist Party of Iran  
International Relations Office  
And the International Federation of Iranian Refugees

Cc: International human rights and humanitarian organisations, UNHCR, media.



### Mansoor Hekmat (1951-2002)

With the bloody suppression of the revolution in Iran and the imposition of an ultra-reactionary life on the people, tens of thousands of human beings, alone and without organisation, fled the Islamic Republic of Iran in search of security and tranquillity. Organising this vast human mass around the most modern and humane advances of humanity, unconditionally defending their right to asylum, and creating an international organisation without taking into consideration people's nationality, religion, sex and or political affiliation became an immediate necessity. Creating the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) was Mansoor Hekmat's response to these conditions. As he said: 'Our entire life story is changing the lives of human beings.'

## Support hundreds of Iranian refugees stranded at the Jordanian border, from page 1

and the International Federation of Iranian Refugees condemn the closure of any border to those seeking protection and safety. The joint campaign in defence of Iranian refugees by the WPI and IFIR, which includes advocacy work and demonstrations at Jordanian embassies in select countries around the world, is

demanding the following:

1. Jordan and all countries bordering Iraq must open their borders to Iranian refugees among others.

2. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Jordanian government must provide necessary food, shelter,

health care and sanitation to the refugees.

3. The right to asylum of Iranians must be recognised.

The WPI and IFIR call on progressive groups and individuals to defend Iranian refugees. Join our demonstrations and actions. Sign our petition: [http://](http://www.PetitionOnline.com/IFIRWPI/petition.html)

[www.PetitionOnline.com/IFIRWPI/petition.html](http://www.PetitionOnline.com/IFIRWPI/petition.html). Only powerful and resolute protests will ensure that the Jordanian government and UNHCR comply with our legitimate demands.

Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) - Organisation Abroad  
International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)  
21 April 2003

## Defend Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers

The International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) continues to call on groups and individuals to defend Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers and demand the following.

1. Stop the slaughter of the Iraqi people immediately.
2. Open all borders to Iraqi refugees. Closing of borders by any government is a crime. No group or government can prevent the movement of refugees.
3. Recognise the right to asylum for all Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers.
4. Stop all deportations to Iraq and the region.
5. Provide necessary food, shelter, health care and sanitation to Iraqis, refugees and internally displaced via non-governmental agencies.
6. Transfer 100,000 refugees in Iraq, including Iranians, to safe places.

**Sign petition defending Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers. To sign, go to <http://www.petitiononline.com/IFIR/petition.html>.**

IFIR has an Emergency Unit on Iraqi Refugees headed by Farshad Hoseini to advocate and defend the rights of Iraqi refugees. For more information, contact Farshad Hoseini, +31 613940534, [farshadhoseini@yahoo.com](mailto:farshadhoseini@yahoo.com).

# JOIN IFIR

\* I wish to join **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** as:

Member (£25.00 p.a.)  Affiliated Group (£100.00 p.a.)

\* I wish to make a donation of: £ I wish to subscribe to Hambastegi English or Iran Monitor:  (£50.00 p.a.)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to the International Federation of Iranian Refugees and mail to P. O. Box 27236, London N11 2ZF.

\* I wish to make a standing order:

To: The Manager of (your Bank) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address of your Bank) \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay **the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)** the sum of £ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no:  Sort Code:  starting on (date):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY] To: **International Federation of Iranian Refugees**, Lloyds TSB bank plc. Sort Code: 30-99-86, account no. 0057223.

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