

Statement by KRG Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA)

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KRG has no jurisdiction over the Makhmour camp

On June 24, 2021, the Kurdish National Congress (KNC) expressed concerns about an alleged restriction on the freedom of movement in the Makhmour Camp.

As of mid-June this year, the regional government's register has recorded 928,674 IDPs and refugees. About one-third of the refugees live in the 36 camps that are located within Kurdistan Region, while most of the refugees live outside the camps.

As for Makhmour camp, KRG has no jurisdiction over the camp, and there are no KR institutions in the camp. Meanwhile, the number of refugees, their names and addresses are not in the official records of the local authorities.

Currently, there are a number of armed units in Makhmour that are overseen by a militant organization which is considered as outlawed. However, the regional authorities have never hindered the movement of the residents of the camp. Workers, job holders, students, patients, and other components have had regular access to the city.

The Makhmour camp has been recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). According to the sources, there are no UN offices in the camp, only the Mosul branch of the (UNHCR) visits the camp.

At the same time, the camp poses security challenges to the Kurdistan Region because its residents do not have an Iraqi identity card and do not hold any corroborated UN documents. Nonetheless, Kurdistan Region has facilitated the movement of the refugees.

The regional government has always taken the initiative to accommodate the refugees and has never, in spite of the shortcomings in national and international cooperation, shown any remorse in this regard.