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KRG Does not Shackle the Movement of Individuals Acquitted from Prison

In a newsletter released on October 28, 2021, Human Rights Watch (HRW) raised some allegations with regards to restricting the movement of some camp residents.

It's worth noting that while the majority of displaced people want to return to their original and liberated places, the majority of these displaced people are currently unable to do so due to a lack of adequate conditions, such as basic life services, job opportunities, and security.

Towards November 2020, about 450 ISIL prisoners have been held in Kurdistan Region prisons: 398 of the detainees were and sentenced, 29 are juveniles and 23 are women. About 48 suspects were released when they were found not-guilty by the court. The KRG will coordinate with the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh (UNITAD) to try ISIL suspects. The KRG has handed over a bulk of requested information to UNITAD regarding ISIL Crimes to facilitate the prosecutions.

Moreover, in 2018, 277 and 576 ISIL detainees were transferred to Nineveh Investigation Court and Baghdad Cassation Court through legal proceedings, respectively.

No acquitted ISIL militant has been forced to dwell inside the Kurdistan Region camps. The influx of IDPs and refugees to the Kurdistan Region, which started from the onset of the war against terrorism, made it possible for ISIL terrorists to infiltrate into the crowds.

As the investigations - based on witness statements, verified intelligence, and corroborated evidence - commenced after the IDPs settled in the camps, the suspected ISIL affiliates were identified and transferred to the relevant security and judicial authorities.

Subsequent to their prison sentence, the affiliates have been acquitted. The regional government considers that some ISIL affiliates are victims of persecution and peer-influence, especially those who joined ISIL when they were of early age.

Furthermore, those who were found guilty of having connections with ISIL and went through the required proceedings by Kurdistan Region's judicial powers, will not be subjected to additional investigation phases, legal process or surveillance.

The regional government supports a voluntary and dignified return of these individuals without them serving a second sentence, passing through cumbersome investigations, or being a target of social criticisms in their places of origin.

If the acquitted persons were asked to give proof of their trials or if the Federal authorities sought evidence in this respect, KR judicial institutions, as a part from Iraq, are ready to meet their requests by handing over the required case files.