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Iran (26)

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 Sendt: 5. august 2003 14:28
 Til: Inge Bruhn Thomsen
 Emne: VS: Update to the International Protection Response to Asylum-seekers from Iraq, July 2003



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Kære Inge

Til din orientering.

M.v.h.
Anni Fode

-----Oprindelig meddelelse-----

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 Sendt: 5. august 2003 09:46
 Til: 'mmi@inm.dk'
 Cc: Anni Fode
 Emne: VS: Update to the International Protection Response to Asylum-seekers from Iraq, July 2003

Kære Merete.

Til orientering har vi nu modtaget nedenanførte om UNHCR's position og vil på den baggrund snarest foretage (endnu) en opdatering af statusnotatet om Irak.

Mvh
Chr.

-----Oprindelig meddelelse-----

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 Emne: Update to the International Protection Response to Asylum-seekers from Iraq, July 2003

Dear all,

1. On 7 March, 20 March and 26 June 2003, UNHCR advised States to suspend all forced returns to Iraq. It further requested suspension of individual processing of asylum requests, linked, where necessary and appropriate, with a temporary form of protection for newly arriving Iraqis and those currently in refugee status determination procedures.

2. The prevailing conditions in Iraq are characterized by considerable security problems, an absence of law and order in many parts of the country, irregular provision of basic services, the continued dependency of large parts of the population on food assistance and other aid for survival and a severe housing shortage. In view of this, UNHCR is not yet promoting voluntary returns. The Office will, however, consider providing limited assistance, on a case by case basis, to refugees and other persons of concern who insist on returning prior to the commencement of regular UNHCR facilitated and organised repatriation movements.

3. In advance of UNHCR-led organized repatriation movements, UNHCR offices may provide the following guidance to States currently hosting asylum-seekers from Iraq:

- * UNHCR recommends that a temporary form of protection be granted, including to newly arriving Iraqi asylum seekers. States should be aware that a continued deterioration in physical and material safety may still lead to forced displacements from Iraq.

- * If governments wish, nonetheless, to resume individual processing of asylum claims, UNHCR, while not encouraging such decisions, advises States to be mindful of the possibility of persecution emanating from non-state agents, particularly given the absence of effective national protection in Iraq. Similarly, atrocious forms of past persecution should favorably be taken into account in the determination process.

- * In situations where large numbers of Iraqi asylum seekers are present, mainly in countries in the region, UNHCR offices will maintain their suspension of refugee status determination, including with regard to all newly arriving asylum-seekers from Iraq, until further notice. As stated in the memorandum of 20 March 2003, Iraqi asylum-seekers should be registered in accordance with ExCom Conclusion No. 91, as and where feasible.

- * UNHCR requests a continuation of the ban on forced returns to Iraq, including of rejected asylum seekers, until further notice. Furthermore, no returns should be promoted at this time.

- * UNHCR reiterates its request that, within the framework of international solidarity and burden-sharing, and since securing adequate protection may be problematic, asylum-seekers from Iraq should not be returned to countries in the region regardless of their prior stay or transit.

4. UNHCR will review this advice in some two months time.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. Best regards. Nadine Verspecht, UNHCR R
Brussels