

## **Kurdistan Regional Government's Response to Human Rights Watch Query**

**From:** Dindar Zebari <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 30 October 2019 22:27

**To:** Belkis Wille <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Information Request - Makhmour camp residents movement

Dear Belkis, HRW

This email is to respond to your letter regarding the free movement of the residents in Makhmour Camp.

Due to the security issues and to further protect KR's security situation and the safety of its citizens including foreign nationals, the movement from Makhmour Camp reassessed to become slightly, restricted temporarily after the killing incident of the Turkish diplomat in Erbil city lately. However, the new measures did not include those who have jobs, students, or those seeking treatment in Kurdistan Region (KR) hospitals considering that they have approval documents.

There is evidence that patients have been allowed to enter the KRI to receive treatment in the hospitals. Before the incident, residents were generally free to access following identifying themselves in the checkpoints. The number of those who need their permission paper to be renewed is 760 persons, Ministry of Interior in KR is in contact with Baghdad residency department to renew them.

The number of the displaced persons in Makhmour camp was 12000. Following 2016 when the KRG administration was no longer present, the number of residents increased, however, the names of the new IDPs have not been registered in any KRG institutions. Makhmour's local administration is in coordination with Baghdad administration to reissue IDs for those who do not have them. Various unofficial military offices are present inside and around the camp to run the camp. Before 2014, the camp was being administered by UNHCR, Qandil Organization and Ministry of Interior Migration Hub who were also issuing documents for their movement across the cities in the Kurdistan Region.

Following ISIS attacks in 2014 and liberating the camps from ISIS, the present militia groups did not allow the return of any organizations or elected local government entities to do people's daily administrative work and provide basic services. Mobilization military groups Controlled the area around the Makhmour camp and certainly their activities complicated the process of residents movement and documentation. The camp is outside KRG's administration and is now under the control of the Iraqi Federal Government authorities in addition to Mobilizations fractions. There are Federal authorities checkpoints surrounding the camp as well, and the threat of ISIS cells persists.

Despite these facts, those who had free access registration Prior to 2014, have been allowed by the KRG authorities to enter KR freely, especially those who work in the cities in the Kurdistan Region including Erbil in both public and private sectors. In line with renewal procedures and regulations students are allowed to enter Erbil city following an approval letter from the presidency of the University of Salahaddin. And finally residents of Makhmour camp are also allowed to be treated in the Kurdistan Region cities' hospitals.

Dr. Dindar Zebari

*KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy*

*Kurdistan Regional Government*

*Council of Ministers*

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**From:** Dindar Zebari <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 6 November 2019 12:15

**To:** Belkis Wille <[REDACTED]>;

**Subject:** Information Request - Makhmour camp residents movement

Dear Belkis,

By approval we meant verification letters from the places that they work in or are students at. For example, if they are students who study in the University of Salahaddin to get verification from their university. There is no specific document to be issued but verification letters. It is worth mentioning that all these precautions are temporary and for protecting the safety of everyone.

Kind regards,

Dr. Dindar Zebari

*KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy*

*Kurdistan Regional Government*

*Council of Ministers*