



Humanitarian Newsletter

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HUMANITARIAN NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Teaching in the Community

By *Dr Ahmed Sabaawi & Steven Devine*

Alrassed International's country director for Iraq, Dr Ahmed Sabaawi, has delivered series of talks to students in Year 10 and sixth form at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, Lancaster, UK.

The students had recently looked at refugees and migration and by further extension; Asylum seekers and issues they face. Thus, they felt that this talk will be in line with their curriculum and welcomed Dr Sabaawi's expertise within the field; providing clear insight on what is going on in areas of the globe effected by migration and refugees; he was further able to answer the students' questions fairly.

The aim of Dr Sabaawi's talks was to provide answers to key questions, defining: what is a refugee? What are the reasons for people to leave their home countries and seek asylum abroad? Further to this, Dr Sabaawi was able to highlight the key differences between what makes an individual a refugee, and what makes an individual an Internally Displaced Person (IDP). Specifically, looking into the situation of refugees moving across the Mediterranean, and

those living in IDP camps. Dr Sabaawi was able to highlight work done by Alrassed International; investigating the IDP camps of Iraq.

By posing these questions it was hoped that the students would be able to gain a greater understanding of the personal plight faced by millions, who commonly see their situation covered by the broad brush stroke of media and journalists on TV and in newspaper articles.

He was able to suggest some actions to help refugees integrate into society. Dr Sabaawi ended each presentation with a round of questions from the pupils; allowing further develop their own understanding of the current situations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The schools head teacher has thankfully been able to report that since Dr Sabaawi's presentations, a number of the pupils have spoken to him expressing a positive reaction to the talks; having learned that the news does not always provide the full story.



Tawergha blaze

There are 14 families from the camp who are left in the open air with no refugee or shelter...

Page 3



The Battle for Mosul

The battle for Mosul has gone on into its fifth month and while there is much progress....

Page 2



Image: Alamy Ltd

The Battle for Mosul

By Steven Devine

The battle for Mosul has gone on into its fifth month and while there is much progress; seeing the eastern half of the city wrestled from the control of ISIS, there remains a stubborn redoubt of ISIS control in the western half of the city. Currently centring around the sections of the Old Town, many civilians remain trapped as ISIS continue to fight in and around family homes and residential areas. Iraqi military, operating in conjunction with foreign coalition forces continue to infringe on ISIS held territory; but with mounting cost to innocent lives.

662 Trauma cases in 3 days

Field hospitals established around Mosul have dealt with an influx of casualties during recent fighting. Over 662 individuals have been treated at the Bartalla Field Hospital, West Emergency, and Shikhan Hospitals between the 19th and 21st March. Over three quarters of these individuals being civilian. This is in spite of over 280,000 individuals fleeing Mosul between October 2016 and March 2017. Many of those seeking refuge continue to flood into IDP camps. It's an impossibility that this will end, as ISIS continue to bar civilian exit from their areas of control within Mosul.

A cruel tactic of employing human shields creates a far higher chance of collateral damage; serving as a foil against less surgical methods used against ISIS such as artillery bombardment and air strikes.

US airstrikes 'Probably' played a role in 200 civilian deaths

Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend, commanding officer of coalition forces in Iraq, has admitted that it is likely that a US airstrike has killed up to 200 Mosul civilians. The attack came on the 17th March. The blast occurring in the contested territory Al Jadideh of western Mosul, and has drawn sharp criticism from various bodies, including Amnesty International; accusing coalition forces of taking inadequate precautions in light of the large civilian presence. The incident will be one of the highest civilian death tolls as a result of coalition action since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Relaxed Rules of Engagement?

There's currently an investigation into whether coalition or ISIS actions lead to the death of the civilians; however, this comes days after similar incidents in Syria. There is speculation the US led coalitions is now operating under new directives; relaxing the rules of engagement in and around civilian areas. This is believed to stem from President Trump having resolved to tackle ISIS with increased aggression.

Reports indicate that requests for bombing missions on targets that would likely have been denied previously, are now increasingly being given the green light.

The potential for further large scale civilian casualties is apparent. It's estimated that many hundreds of thousands may still remain trapped in ISIS held areas of Mosul. Between the possibility of ISIS using innocents as human shields, and a newfound disregard for collateral damage; it seems likely that these events will be repeated.



Bodies of those killed in Mosul airstrikes
(Source: Iraqi Spring Media Centre)

PICTURES FROM SIDI ALSAYAH CAMP

Pictures taken from Tawergha Youth Organisation on March 2017.



Children innocently watch as the flames burn Sidi Alsayah Camp in Tripoli



Tawergha IDP Camp Fire

By [Dr Abubakar Ahmed](#)

A fire on the 12th March ripped through Sidi Alsayah IDP camp, consuming a communities improvised homes; largely put together using materials found to hand: cardboard, canvas, and any recyclable material. Precious commodities when you're left to establish a home from waste materials.

The Local Council of Tawergha were thankfully able to report that there were no casualties; however, there are 14 families from the camp who are left in the open air with no refugee or shelter. The local council has stepped in and is trying to accommodate the families affected. It's understood that other councils and aid organisations are trying to offer assistance.

Without adequate housing and poor winter preparations, internal displaced residents may die as the country continues to be gripped by freezing winter weather. Parts of the country have seen more than a metre of rain floods over the weekend, and communication lines and roads are out of action on several regions.

It's believed that an electrical fault caused the blaze. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident; a similar fire broke out, on 6th March in Abu-hedamh camp for displaced Tawerghans. Similarly, to the fire at Sidi Alsayah, the fire has resulted in destruction of material and shelter. Only thanks to the efforts of the residents was the fire extinguished.

All residents of the city of Tawergha were forced to leave their homes after militias engaged in ethnic cleansing for the alleged support of Ghaddafi during the civil war. The city has since been razed to the ground to prevent any possible return.

The city and its inhabitants were the subject of a report by Alrassed International; highlighting the issues faced by over 30,000 people.



Children pick their way through the remnants of a home...

Alrassed International News

Insta-famous: @AlrassedIntl

We're pleased to announce that Alrassed International has released a new social media campaign. We've taken to Instagram to help reach out to more members of society across more social media platforms.

We aim to increase our profile and engage with more people; bringing news associated with human rights across the North Africa and Middle East regions. Please follow us and help to try and make the world a more peaceful place. You can link to our Twitter and Instagram through: @AlrassedIntl

Milk and sugar?

Good news for coffee lovers and residents of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK. Alrassed International plans to open a café in the city centre. We're currently exploring the possibility of opening a premises within the main shopping mall, Eldon Square. We hope this would allow us to build our presence in the area we're based as a charity. We'll keep you updated as things progress!

Welcome Russell

Alrassed International is very pleased to announce that we have a new digital marketing director, one Russell Turner. Immediately setting out to work, Russell has implemented; amongst other things, our Instagram page and associated content. He has plans for an upcoming video campaign to increase engagement, so please watch this space.



Alrassed International is a human rights monitor. Our aim is to raise awareness of abuses that take place within the Middle- East and North Africa regions. We currently have active campaigns focused on the displacement of people within Libya and Iraq.

Alrassed International

12 Hoyle Avenue, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE4 9QX

www.alrassedinternational.co.uk

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