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### 1. Fact Sheet / FAQ

#### **What is the mission of the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights?**

The Jiyan Foundation supports survivors of human rights violations, promotes democratic values, and defends fundamental freedoms in Northern Iraq and Syria. It strives for a society where the dignity of the human person is protected, where adults and children enjoy the right to life and liberty, and where citizens are free from torture and terror.

#### **What is the meaning of your name and logo?**

Jîyan (zia:n) is the Kurdish word for life. The tree in our logo is a calligraphic artwork spelling out the name of our organization in Arabic and Kurdish.

#### **Which legal status does the Jiyan Foundation enjoy?**

The Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, founded in 2005, is a non-profit and non-governmental organization registered in Iraq and Germany.

#### **Where does the Jiyan Foundation work?**

The Jiyan Foundation is based in Kurdistan-Iraq. It runs ten rehabilitation centers in the cities of Duhok, Alqosh, Erbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Chamchamal and Halabja as well as in Domiz, a camp for Syrian refugees, and in Khanke, a camp mainly inhabited by displaced persons of the Yazidi faith. Since 2018 it has operated its first rehabilitation center outside Kurdistan-Iraq in Mosul. Another center is planned to be opened in 2020 in Qamishli, Northern Syria.

#### **What kinds of activities do you offer?**

The Jiyan Foundation promotes the physical rehabilitation, mental well-being, and social reintegration of survivors and their families by providing them with medical treatment, psychotherapeutic support, and socio-legal counseling. We also seek to protect survivors of past human rights abuses and prevent future acts of violence through professional training, human rights education, public awareness-raising, and political advocacy. Our activities focus on five thematic programs:

- Program for Trauma Care & Health
- Program for Justice
- Program for Democracy & Civil Society
- Program for Training & Capacity Building
- Program for Quality & Research

The variety of these programs depicts our holistic approach, which we base on the experience that, in post-repressive societies, the rehabilitation of individuals, families and communities is a crucial step in building a peaceful civil society.

#### **Who are your beneficiaries?**



We treat survivors of human rights violations and violence, including victims of torture, genocide, war and terror, persecution as well as gender-based and domestic violence. We specifically address vulnerable groups such as women and children, prisoners, people living in rural and remote areas, Syrian refugees, and internally displaced persons. We help survivors regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or spiritual beliefs.

Since 2005, some **20,000** survivors of human rights violations benefited from our rehabilitation services: appr. 40% were female adults and 30% children and youths. Another **40,000 Syrian** refugees and internally displaced persons received short-term medical treatment.

#### **Who belongs to your team?**

We employ about 190 local staff, among them psychologists, psychotherapists and social workers, psychiatrists and physicians, physiotherapists, as well as management and administrative staff. In Germany, a small team based in Berlin supports the Jiyan Foundation.

#### **How do you finance your organization?**

Our work depends on international project funding and private donations. Our main donors are the German Foreign Office and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, the United Nations and Misereor.

#### **How can I include a call for donations in a publication?**

The easiest way to donate is through our online donation form which offers several different payment methods. Donations can also be made directly to our bank account in Germany:

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights

Name of bank: Ethikbank

BIC/SWIFT: GENODEF1ETK

IBAN: DE48830944950003319644

The Jiyan Foundation is a registered charity organization in Germany. Donations from people living in a EU Member State are tax-deductible.

#### **Where can I find photographs and video material?**

We present a selection of pictures from our work at

- Flickr ([www.flickr.com/photos/jiyanfoundation](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jiyanfoundation))
- Instagram ([instagram.com/jiyanfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/jiyanfoundation))
- Youtube ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO5pY6pMPodt0d\\_8texdreA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO5pY6pMPodt0d_8texdreA))

#### **How can I stay informed?**

Our website is regularly updated and you are welcome to join our press mailing list. We are also on social media

- Facebook ([www.facebook.com/jiyanfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/jiyanfoundation))
- Twitter ([@JiyanFoundation](https://twitter.com/JiyanFoundation))



## **2. Portrait Salah Ahmad: Founder and President of the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights**

Salah Ahmad is the founder and president of the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, the only institution offering comprehensive medical, psychotherapeutic and social assistance to survivors of human rights violations in Iraq.

Mr. Ahmad is a child and youth psychotherapist and systemic family therapist trained in Germany. Throughout his career, he has treated hundreds of traumatized refugees from numerous countries at the Berlin Center for Torture Victims, Germany.

Having experienced flight and exile himself, Mr. Ahmad has shown lifelong commitment to human rights, the cause of disadvantaged groups, the prevention of violence and victims' improved access to mental health care in Iraq.

Consequently, Mr. Ahmad decided to return to his hometown Kirkuk after the fall of the Ba'ath regime, where he established the first treatment center for survivors of torture in Iraq in 2005. During the following decade, he used his experience and expertise to advance the idea of psychotherapy and trauma care in his home country, to establish a unique network of rehabilitation centers in North Iraq, and to train hundreds of local staff for the benefit of thousands of survivors of human rights abuses.

Mr. Ahmad regularly commutes between Germany and Iraq and now holds an exceptional position in the Kurdish region as the success and respected work of the Jiyan Foundation allow him to push for policy changes that in return impact our clients' lives.

To honor his tireless work and accomplishments in Iraq, Mr. Ahmad was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in February 2015.



### 3. Quotations of Patients and Staff

"You must know ... what you are doing for us here in Halabja is unheard-of. For over twenty years we have been suffering now, and you are the first ones to soothe our pain. Each day I include you in my prayers."

*Survivor of the chemical attacks, Halabja*

"This center is more than just a treatment center. It is a hospital, a school, a private clinic, and a social counseling office for our clients. They trust us and believe that we can help them and change their situation for the better. Our patients tell us many hidden subjects and secrets, describe their pains and sometimes speak to us about their dreams. They are lost between past suffering and present struggle."

*Therapist, Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights*

"I came to the women`s group of the center because I heard so many good things about it. You know, we have always been told that Kurds cannot be trusted. But here, everybody is equal and all of us have the same problems. If all the people of Kirkuk came to understand each other like we do in this group, we could finally live in peace."

*Songül, Turkman woman, from Kirkuk*

"I`m very grateful to your organization. Organizations such as yours may not provide money or earn our living, but they are doing very much to ease some of our pains."

*Mawlood, a survivor of the Ba`ath regime, April 9, 2014*

"I recently returned from abroad. There, the doctors are very kind with their clients. I see the same generosity in your center. Since my mother has started visiting you, she feels much better; I would like to send my sister for treatment, too."

*Son of one of our clients who regularly visits us*

"I wish you knew the suffering of a prisoner."

*Former political prisoner of the Ba`ath regime*

"It probably didn`t cost much money to organize this event, but I never felt happier."

*Fuad, survivor of the Ba`ath regime, at an event to observe the Day of the Fall of the Saddam Regime, April 9, 2014*

"When I first came to this center, I had no motivation for staying alive. After meeting you, life is getting back to me."

*Galawezh, a survivor of the Ba`ath regime*



"Coming here takes the pressure off me and all my negative thoughts go away. Sometimes I come by just like that, without an appointment."

*Female patient*

"I am here because I have a goal to achieve and I have to fight to get there, and this place protects us."

*Resident of a women's shelter, Sulaymaniyah*

"Children are now talking about the bombings as if they were talking about a cartoon movie. How many generations will pay the price of what is happening to us now? I wish to write to you that the situation has improved and that we all returned to normal life. But unfortunately, the scope of violence increases every month, as does the number of people searching for help at our center."

*Staff of the Jiyan Foundation, Kirkuk*

"I pray to God that he can save us and bring back a smile to our faces. We on our part do our best to bring hope to the people who visit our center and encourage them to get rid of their fears and always try to support them. We remain our glimmer of hope."

*Staff of the Jiyan Foundation, Kirkuk*

"I used to think of negative things, which led me to my depression, and I tried to commit suicide twice but regretted it later. Those thoughts affected my body and I started having headaches and feeling angry but then I decided to change my thoughts, and my life got so much better."

*Resident of a women's shelter, Sulaymaniyah*