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**Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.**

For details of the conference programme go to [www.iraqistudies.org](http://www.iraqistudies.org)

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**Title: Displacement of students and faculty staff from universities of Central Iraq to Kurdistan Region, motives , statistics , and suggestions.**

**Abstract:**

The deteriorated security conditions, sectarian conflicts, political competition in Central Iraq (particularly in Baghdad, the Capital) has an adverse effect and influenced and forced thousands of citizens to immigrate toward safer place either in or outside Iraq. Many immigrants would naturally head and get settled in Kurdistan Region (Northern Iraq), the most secured, safe, and easily accessible territory in Iraq.

This displacement or internal immigration included thousands of university students and faculty staff (lecturers) who were obliged to immigrate for several reasons (other than security) : weak university governance due to sectarian-political competition, irregular lecturing timetable, difficulty in commuting to their universities during unsecured times, direct threats to students and faculties, universities targeted by several terrorist groups, and others.

Immigration to region's universities had commenced since 2005-2006 (was unsusceptible at that time). During 2006-2007, request to move was dramatically increased (1237 faculty staff, 1040 students). Then, by the beginning of the current year 2007-2008, the total number of transferred faculty staff reached 1830 and transferred students 733. These will be added to a number of requests for student transfer exceeding 1230 (most of them has not been responded to yet). These figures are continuously increasing to this date.

This problem was very recently compounded, by the collapse in security conditions in Mosul city (Northern Iraq), where several non-Arab ethnics, such as Ezyds and Shabaks ( Kurd ethnics), and Christians were subjected to organized terrorist attacks. Consequently, they started to leave the city and their representatives pleaded for transfer of 1132 students (currently registered in Mosul University and institutes) and other 1121 students who have just graduated from high schools and supposed to join the university this year. That makes, when added to the previous figures, the total students about to be transferred 4026, and total transferred faculty members 3067.

The problem with these figures is that they highly crossed the capacities of universities and institutes in Kurdistan Region. Nevertheless, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) showed support and hospitality to immigrant for national and humanitarian considerations.

But the increasing number of immigrants has introduced a social-economic burden on KRG, and pressure on programs of education, health, and public services at all levels in the region.

Several suggestion are here presented to deal with the problem of immigration : financial support from the Iraqi Federal Government (IFG) to sectors of education, health to keep-pace with the increasing

number of immigrants; salaries to faculty staff and donation for students to be paid by the Federal Government ; It may be possible to accommodate the problem through establishment of a new Iraqi university in the Region to receive students and faculty staff . This will have a direct measure to prevent local perceived problems and also stop the exudes staff and students outside Iraq .