

Annual Report 2015

*Long-term Projects to Advance Women's
and Children's Rights, Support Refugees & IDP's
and Promote Freedom & Democracy in Northern Iraq*



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Cover picture: Halabja, local and refugee girls stand united

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1. SUMMARY

While living conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan deteriorated and the security situation became increasingly tense due to the war against ISIS, the refugee crisis, the KRG presidency crisis and last, but not least the severe economic crisis which is linked to it all, WADI has nevertheless been determined to ensure continuity in the awareness efforts against FGM & for women's rights in the region. Thanks to Hivos and UNICEF support, WADI was even able to overcome many difficult circumstances and reach out to more people than ever.

In 2015 WADI dedicated most of its energy and resources on continued efforts to raise awareness on female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of gender based violence. Funded by UNICEF, several mobile awareness teams met thousands of women throughout Iraqi Kurdistan and Kirkuk governorate to provide information and health or legal advice.

WADI is taking care of twelve FGM-free villages situated all over the region and Kirkuk.

In the second half of the year the teams increasingly concentrated on men and male youths who play (or could play) a crucial role – not in the actual practice of FGM, but in the prior decision-making on the question if FGM should be practiced.

Meanwhile, in Duhok WADI developed a second pillar of its activities, focusing on the Yazidi IDP's from Sinjar area and especially on the young women and girls who were abducted by ISIS, used as sex slaves and later somehow managed to flee and return. For these girls WADI opened the Jinda day care center (funded by UNICEF) which already provided psycho-social help to hundreds of girls. Following WADI's strategy to ensure sustainability and promote local responsibility and empowerment, Jinda Center will become an independent local organization from 2016 on. Three female-led mobile teams will continue to provide psycho-social assistance to vulnerable people in the IDP camps around Duhok.

Additionally, Wadi is still taking care for an estimated 500 Yazidi IDP's who found shelter in several unfinished buildings close to Duhok. They receive basic supplies and materials to make their makeshift homes winterproof. This part is realized with private commitment and donations only.

WADI is also supporting a school for Syrian refugees with transportation and various in-kind contributions. The school was founded as a refugee initiative and all teachers are working voluntarily.

Finally, the “Halabja Summer of Peace” has become an impressive statement for peace and reconciliation in the region. In a process of self-organization, local women joined with IDP’s and refugees to organize various community and educational activities.

Hivos core funding laid foundation to these and many more activities.

The total number of direct beneficiaries of Wadi’s activities in 2015: **16,779** persons, almost exclusively women and children.

There have been approximately **45,000** indirect beneficiaries, which includes listeners of the radio, families that live in towns and villages that received Wadi services, families whose children benefited from the play-bus programme, and family members of the women and children who took part in the *Halabja Summer of Peace* activities.

List of direct beneficiaries:

No	Description of Activity	Total number of direct beneficiaries
1	Mobile awareness teams	10,000 beneficiaries
2	Mobile Playground and children's health care activities	338 villages visited 1248 children - 615 girls and 597 boys
3	Denge Nwe Community Radio	1421 programs have been launched. 583 listeners called in; 392 females and 191 males.
4	Halabja Women Centre	Seminars: attended by 1683 women and children Cafeteria: 1050 women
5	Support for Yazidi girls who returned from ISIS slavery	500 women and girls
6	Emergency Aid for Yazidi IDP's	1150 beneficiaries
7	Local democracy project	85 beneficiaries
8	SPI – Projects for victims of chemical attacks	480 beneficiaries

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. COMBAT FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

Since 2014, UNICEF is actively supporting WADI's activities to end FGM in Iraqi Kurdistan. WADI is currently implementing a larger programme to combat the practice in the region. Its goal is to expand the reach of those interventions that have proven effective from few villages and communities to the entire Iraqi-Kurdish region, so that the tipping point of abandoning the practice of FGM is arrived at in the region as a whole. To achieve this goal and guarantee sustainability the programme requires continuity.

WADI initiated a Training Of Trainers Program (TOT) involving organizations in 6 different locations, and established a KRG-wide operational network to combat FGM. In 2015 this network was fully operationable, however it had to be downsized slightly due to reduced funding by UNICEF. Nevertheless, the network managed to reach more people than ever.

In Jan-Nov 2015, 6 – 7 mobile teams held meetings and seminars for a total of around 10,000 people (92% women) in 700 different places.



One of hundreds of women-to-women dialogues on FGM and violence against women – Sarqala, Garmyan, Aug. 11

FGM is a grave women's rights violation. In order to achieve eventually a change in behavior this programme raises awareness not only on the negative psychological and health consequences of the practice, but it creates awareness on the fact that women have rights and they have the right to insist on



November 9: FGM awareness for men in Kalar, Garmyan, covered by local TV and newspapers

their rights. This issue goes far beyond the FGM topic and affects almost all aspects of women's lives. Thus, in addition to FGM also closely related challenges like domestic violence, forced and early marriage, reproductive health issues and repression in the family are addressed during the dialogues.

In recent months the teams increasingly concentrated on awareness sessions for men¹ and male youths – in mosques, schools and community centers. Some of these events are covered by local media.

From their previous work the teams understood that men can play a crucial role when it comes to the abandonment of this harmful practice, although FGM is exclusively practiced by women and many men are not informed about the practice or do not care.

The traditional authority men have over their women is a huge challenge in respect of women's rights. However, it can be used to make the women stop mutilating their daughters, given the men are convinced that FGM is harmful and not a religious demand. If men care and forbid FGM in their family it will not be practiced – this is what many women confirmed in interviews.

All FGM awareness teams are female, thus working as a role model, bringing in the female perspective and facilitate access to the female communities. The driver is male not only for security reasons, but he frequently serves as a low-threshold contact point and vital information source for interested local men.

¹ FGM Awareness For Men: http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1241%3Afgm-awareness-for-men&catid=35%3Anewsticker&Itemid=156

WADI's teams are operating in the areas of Raniya, Halabja and Garmyan. *Gender* organization is working around Erbil, *WoLA* in the Suleimaniyah area, and *PANA* in Kirkuk governorate.

Elements of the programme

Awareness raising in the villages: Mobile teams come to the villages and collect the women (or men, in case a men's seminar was announced – however men's seminars require a different approach). Sometimes they can speak about FGM right away, and in other cases they present themselves as “health teams” first, until they are sure they can address FGM. In the beginning, to get a picture they ask about the general situation for women in the village with respect to women's rights. Then usually they talk about health and hygiene awareness issues and finally they address FGM. The teams explain the serious health risks and they show a documentary in which also a doctor and a mullah speak out against the practice. Then they stimulate a discussion among the women. In many cases it is the first time the women talk about it openly. With all the information provided, many women decide to stop FGM and spare their next daughter. However, social pressure may run counter to this decision. For a sustainable change, the community as a whole must decide to change behaviour.



Watching the FGM awareness film, Suleimaniyah area, Oct. 14

Awareness, advocacy and dialogue with pertinent public servants and government officials including officials of the ministries, school teachers and kindergarten nurses, police, judges, and social workers. Topics: FGM, forced marriage, early marriage, exchange marriage, and the contents of the domestic



Many community dialogues are covered by TV, radio and newspapers. Awareness team members participate in TV shows.

violence law No. 8 of 2011. The teams also reached out to mullahs in an effort to convince them not to promote FGM anymore.²

Media outreach: WADI in cooperation with members of the network produce, distribute and broadcast awareness material – flyers, brochures, radio interviews, participation in TV shows, audio and video clips for radio and television broadcasting. Topics: FGM, forced marriage, early marriage, exchange marriage, and the contents of the domestic violence law No. 8 of 2011.

FGM-free communities: 12 villages which collectively decided to join the FGM-free network, stop FGM immediately and declare themselves FGM-free in public. As a small recognition for their courage they receive limited community rehabilitation projects according to their choice (around \$10,000) and additional awareness seminars, first aid courses and vocational courses.



Women from FGM-free village Bardasor on TV, giving testimony about their decision

This project is funded by UNICEF, HIVOS and Wallace Foundation.

² <http://www.stopfgmmideast.org/campaign-in-iraqi-kurdistan-paying-a-visit-to-a-mullah-who-promotes-fgm/> and http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1214%3Awe-need-a-great-revolution-for-women-account-from-an-anti-fgm-mobile-teamer&catid=35%3Anewsticker&Itemid=156

2.2. MOBILE PLAYGROUND AND WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

In 2015, the Play Bus team was permanently busy in the villages of Halabja governorate. With the influx of IDP's from central Iraq and the refugees from Syria, the project concentrated on involving the children of the displaced and investigate their special needs.



Play bus team entertaining Kurdish, Arab and IDP kids in Halabja

The team's working hours are from 8.30 in the morning until two in the afternoon. Two female and one male staff are visiting selected villages on four days per week, and spending one day in the office for scheduling, preparations, evaluations, reporting and administrative duties.

The bus is equipped with toys, climbing frames, writing and colouring pencils and a children's library, music instruments, drawing tools, games, sports equipment and other materials.

The bus is being sent as a Mobile Playground to poor and remote villages in Hawraman and Sharazur areas in which the population suffered from both the chemical attacks and the Anfalisation. Refugee/IDP children living outside the camps are not able to attend school.



The play bus in Kulkny Esmael Khasraw village, supporting the campaign for peace and mutual living in the province of Halabja.

The project aims to support the children through playing and learning, and is assisted by a team of educational supervisors. In none of these villages any facility for children is existing – be it playgrounds or anything similar. For almost all children in this region the Play Bus is the only entertainment and fun they have in their hard daily life. Moreover, most of these villages don't have any professionals who have any pedagogical or medical skills.

Activities of the Mobile Playground:

The Play Bus team offered a combination of activities. Some of them were focusing on entertainment of the children, while others emphasized education, health or the prevention of domestic violence.

These activities included a variety of lectures and awareness programmes for the children and their parents. Often parents are not aware how to prepare healthy food for their children, therefore the teams are confronted with various forms of malnutrition. The teams developed a sustainable method to teach

mothers how to prepare a proper diet including vitamins and minerals. Several times a doctor joined the team and assisted in basic health care services. In some cases parents lack the skill to see if their children suffer from diseases or sickness.

The team is raising awareness about:

- Healthy Diet
- Dental Hygiene
- Hygiene for body and clothes
- Food Hygiene
- Simple first aid assistance for minor injuries
- Non-violent child-raising

Many times the team finds itself confronted with severe problems in the families and various forms of violence. Many poor parents do not have concepts how to educate their children in a positive and non-violent way. The team offers advice to parents and tries to moderate in family conflicts.

Numerous hygiene items were handed out to a total of 548 children, such as: shampoo, soap, toothbrush and paste, and hand cream. Toys and educational materials were also disbursed, for example children magazines, swings, merry-go-rounds, balls, legos, play dough, hula hoop and jump ropes.



November 12, the team participated in a public discussion on domestic violence and the implementation of law No. 8 in Halabja province.



On November 3, 2015, the Play Bus team participated in a training workshop to rise organizational skills. The training was organized by the Council of Halabja Organizations.

Since all villagers suffered from the traumatic poison gas attacks in the 1980s when they were deported and later resettled, the majority is affected psychologically. Although the children the bus takes care of

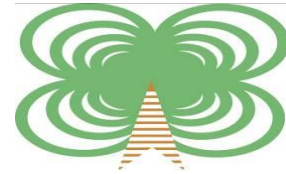
were all born after these events they suffer in second generation, and it is of crucial importance for their well-being to deal with the traumatic experiences of their parents and grandparents. Refugee/IDP children have made traumatic experiences and lost family members in the war zones they used to live and during their escape. The team members, even though they are not trained psychologists, are trying to address some of these problems.

Approximately **1248** children benefited from the various activities offered in this project.

This project is funded by Roselo Foundation, Green Cross, SALT.

2.3. COMMUNITY RADIO DENG NWE

Radio Denge Nwe, the independent community radio, is dedicated to women's and youths issues in a community and local context.



Recently a refugee programme was launched “by refugees for refugees” with listeners calling in, studio guests and music from Anbar and Syria (the places of origin of most of the refugees/IDP's).

Recently, the radio joined the Nov. 25 campaign (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and conducted more than 20 programmes about this topic within 3 weeks around this date.



The radio joined the Nov. 25 campaign with many programmes

Daily Program:

- 11 hours of daily radio broadcast.
- Daily local and international news segments.
- Broadcasting a live program named (Hanasay Nwe) in which officials and educated specialists are invited to the studio to talk about the issues of society and the people.
- A daily-two hour of the Kurdish (VOA).
- Daily reading segments about women and the youth.
- Daily broadcastings of awareness instructions about health, human and women rights, FGM, children rights, the Syrian refugees and IDPs, environment, traffic, electricity and water.
- Daily reading and broadcasting the governmental and non-governmental announcements.

Weekly Program:

- Barnamy Taibat: a live broadcast presented three to four times a week that invites the official and artists to talk about essential topics. So far 139 episodes had been presented.
- Sport Nwe: specialized for the local and global sport news. 71 episodes had been presented.
- Blawkrawakany Hafta: specialized for reading the journals' published works. 46 episodes had been presented.
- New Runakbery: it is about reading artists news, video clips and albums, actors and the latest movies. 48 episodes had been presented.
- Presenting a 16-day special segment due to the 25th of November and the 16 days of facing violence against women.
- Hoshyary Tandrusty: it is a live broadcasting show, presented once a week. The show hosts specialists to give the civilians health awareness. 32 episodes had been presented.
- Zanisty New: a live program about the latest scientific and technological inventions. 43 episodes had been presented.
- Barnamy Rekkhrawakan: a live program with the support of Halabja organization counsel. 10 episodes had been presented.
- Semay Parezga New: a live program broadcasted once in every 28 days that talks about the post distributions in Halabja governorate and what is necessary to have in Halabja.
- A special program on the local democracy survey and six episodes had been presented.
- A special program on the conditions of Syrian refugees and IDPs in Halabja. 13 episodes had been presented.
- Daily presentation of short information in different times about environment, science, educational, economical and health.

The Radio's other local activities:

- A live coverage of the ceremony for Halabja's Chemical attack anniversary in Kurdish and English on the 16th of March 2015.
- A special program on the 25th of November and a week to face violence against women on the 25th of November 2015.
- Eight programs from Dange Nwe radio about environment, agriculture and local products had been published on Amark's official website on the 16th of October 2015.
- A live broadcast of the Kurdistan parliament session about Halabja becoming a governorate in Halabja monument on the 2nd of May 2015.

- Training six females and three males for news report, hosting and montage in a radio shows.

The Radio's outer activities:

- Two staffs of the radio participated in the making a female media outlet with DHRD org. for women's awareness, recording the cases of domestic violence against women and the ceremony was in hotel Titanic in Sulimani on 26th of November 2015.
- The radio promoted a book named Rebarry New which is an instructional book on Halabja and 5000 copies were made on the 10th of January 2015.
- The radio was rewarded by party's sector 12 and Hazhar Mukryan's library as one of the best radio's in Halabja on the 22nd of April 2015.
- The radio participated in Kurdish journal anniversary by having an open discussion between the journalists in Halabja and the political officials with the support of Metro center on the 22nd of April 2015.
- The radio was rewarded as one of the best radios in Halabja by sector five of Islamic union on the 29th of April 2015.
- New org. with the support of Aramy org. carried out the second annual festival for herbal and natural food with the title (We won't depart from nature and environment) in Halabja's public park on the 7th of April 2015.
- The radio's participation in an open discussion about the difficulties and the role of media in Halabja which was carried out in Hazhar Mukryani's library on the 28th of July 2015.
- A staff member's participation in a 5-days course in (IMCK) projects to train for preparing reports on war. The course took place in Sulimani on the 23rd of May 2015.
- Providing a hall for a group of youth to learn English for three months on the 20th of May 2015.
- Participating in campaign of Peace and coexistence by Nwe org. and wadi org. to help the Syrian refugees and IDPs on the 15th of June 2015.

Total of Programs and Audience Participation:

- 1698 programs had been presented.
- 583 audience members called the radio; 392 females and 191 males.

This project is funded by Roselo Foundation and Green Cross.

2.4. HALABJA WOMEN'S CENTER

Halabja women's center opened in 2004, right after the liberation. It stayed popular until today. Many women are regular visitors. Refugee and IDP women have joined recently.

Halabja women's center together with the independent women's and youth radio Denge Nwe constitute the core infrastructure not only for the "Halabja Summer of Peace" (see below), but for many other community and women's rights activities.

Among the regular activities were:

English courses for children with 194 participants in total, a large number of sewing courses with a total of 518 participants, bakery courses with 127 participants, a cooking course with 22 participants, drawing courses for 59 children, beauty courses for 30 participants and knitting courses for 94 participants.

Additionally, IDP's and refugees were included in many local community activities, for example on Nov. 4 Halabja's Women NGOs took part in the first Hanar festival for local products in Halabja, and on June 1st,



Using summer vacations to study English



November 25 demonstration

the International Children's Day, the women's center celebrated and offered many activities for children. One week starting with Nov. 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the center engaged in several activities for women's rights and the rule of law.

The Café

The center has a café which offers the one and only public space in town where women can meet freely. It is offering lectures and seminars about women's rights, FGM, early and forced marriage, female health, environment issues... The café is very popular among local women and it has become like an institution in Halabja.

In 2015, a total of **1683** women and children benefitted from the various courses and seminars which were offered in Halabja women center. Approximately **1050** women visited the cafeteria of the center.



August 20: Commemorating the second anniversary of the chemical attacks in the Ghoutas by the Syrian regime. People in Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan declared their solidarity. Halabja was bombed with poison gas in 1988. Many Syrian refugees and displaced persons from central Iraq found shelter in Halabja. Some of them joined the protest.

Courses and daily activities in Halabja

NO	Activity Description	Number of courses	Total beneficiaries
1	Handcraft course	4	94
2	Computer course	4	80
3	Sewing	18	518
4	Hair dressing course	2	30
5	First aid courses	1	18
6	Health Care courses	4	71
7	Courses about hygiene and child care	4	94
8	Literacy course	6	81
9	English course	8	194
10	Seminars about women rights and workshops	11	295
11	Bakery Courses	6	127
12	Cooking course	1	22
13	Drawing course for children	2	59
		Total	1683

This project is funded by Roselo Foundation and Green Cross.

2.5. THE HALABJA SUMMER OF PEACE

After the large influx of refugees from Syria and internal displaced from Faluja, Ramadi and other places in Central Iraq conquered by ISIS, Halabja women's center has become the focal point of a new community initiative called "Halabja Summer of Peace".

The women in the center understood perfectly well that politics can not be turned against people. Many of the women in the center have been refugees themselves when they fled from Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign against the Kurds. Only if Syrians, Iraqis, Kurds and Arabis would join could they overcome this current crises and set a sign against rising racism - and at the same time even have fun together.



Women with very different cultural backgrounds and even different languages – from Kurdistan, Anbar and Syria – planning activities together

Together, they came up with a program which will serve Arabs and Kurds alike from which ever country they are from. Under the label "campaign for mutual living and Peace in Halabja", the refugees are be offering classes teaching Kurdish to the Arabs and Arabic to the Iraqi Kurds – Syrian Kurds were taught in Arabic and only in Arabic in schools under the regime of the Assads. More than two million refugees from

Syria and central Iraq have fled during the last two years to Iraqi Kurdistan. This means: A fifth of the population are refugees now.

In the city of Halabja, 530 families have taken refugee in the recent conflicts. 400 of them are Arabs from central Iraq, 120 have fled the civil war in Syria and 10 families are Yazidis from the Singjar mountains who have also fled the Islamic State. In the whole province of Halabja a total of 2816 refugee families are registered.

Just like in other countries in the region tensions are rising as the state is hardly able to accomodate newcomers appropriately. The women of Halabja have now set a unique sign against this trend: The Women Center and Radio Dange Nwe started a campaign to support refugees through locally grown structures. The Halabja Peace Project does not only try to help women and children who had to flee war, the atrocities of the "Islamic State" or Assad's regime, but wants to send a clear message that only cooperation and mutual understanding are leading into a better future of peace and coexistence.

The refugee women are participating in the women and youth radio program Radio Dangu New. During summer a vacation program for children was designed – in the long hot summer months there have been so far no activities for them. There were classes and outings e.g. to one of Kurdistan's most beautiful recreational areas with waterfall and much greenery.

The children and youth also decided to clean the two public gardens in Halabja on one day with music and other festivities for everyone to join. They wanted to send the message: Refugees are beautifying our city.

The activities and the idea behind the "Halabja Peace Project" have already been reported widely on Kurdish media starting a public debate how a welcoming culture for refugees could work.

There were also many international media reports about the campaign, among others by MSNBC³ and Aljazeera.⁴

This project is funded by Roselo Foundation and Green Cross.

³ A moving short documentary: <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/womens-center-in-iraqi-kurdistan-aids-refugees-578292291713>

⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/halabja-gas-attack-victims-iraqis-fleeing-isil-150624113156002.html>

2.6. A SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

WADI is supporting a school in Iraqi Kurdistan run by Syrian refugees for Syrian children – the Afrin-School. It is situated in Bainjan, a complex just outside of Suleymania on the road to Chamchamal which is inhabited mostly by Syrian and a number of Yezidi refugee families.



These girls and boys are happy to be able to attend school

Refugee children are not allowed to attend local schools if the family is not living in a refugee camp. Founding their own school was these people's only choice. The Afrin elementary school has around 200 pupils ranging from the first to the eighth grade (and next year, grade nine will be added to the school).

The school building, now large with numerous classrooms is a result of donations. Teaching material is scarce, making the teachers' job that much harder. The teachers themselves are scarce as money is hard to come by and they are not as compensated as they should be. The pupils are in need of the curriculum books so they can immerse themselves in their schoolwork but alas they are unable to do so.

Often they are forced to share one book between several of them. The school also lacks a library as books are expensive and there is no budget allocated to buy any. Even if books were provided, the school has very little of furniture so books should come with bookshelves.

Other subjects in school, subjects that the children of Bainjan seem to love are impossible to fully study because of the lack of material.

Another issue is the lack of teachers. The teachers are overworked because of the sheer number of pupils versus the understaffed administration of the school.



Girls queuing for new school uniforms



The children in Bainjan are not like other children. The trauma they have endured in their homeland of Syria, then as refugees in Iraq warrants a great deal of crisis treatment and even first aid in the form of grief counseling. Children are the true losers in war and displacement as they are forced to be mobile in the exact time when children's experts assert that they need stability and a strong sense of home.

WADI is providing various goods like stationary, computers, water dispenser, school uniforms, furniture and heating gas. Additionally, WADI is organizing school transport.

This project is funded by the "Ein Herz für Kinder" campaign of the German BILD-Zeitung newspaper.

2.7. EMERGENCY AID FOR YAZIDI IDP'S

WADI is caring for 104 displaced Yazidi families, approximately 500 people, from Sinjar⁵ living in more than a dozen shell constructions between Khanke and Duhok.

Three mobile teams are providing psycho-social assistance to displaced women in the camps around Duhok.

Assistance to 104 families

The Yazidi IDP's fled from the ISIS terror army in August 2014. In 2015, they received basic healthcare, food bags on a regular base, and also clothes, building material and plastic canvas to close the non-existent doors, windows and walls and protect the inhabitants as much as possible from wind and cold. All this assistance was covered by private donations.

Wadi is also taking care for 20 families whose fathers/husbands have gone missing during the assault and the subsequent escape. These women and children are living in tents close to Khanke camp. They also benefited from private donations,

and Wadi's BMZ-funded mobile teams assisted them in many ways, among others they provided them with concrete, so the women were able to build fundamentals for the tents and cover the ground to protect from entering water and prevent muddy ground during the winter rain season.



One of the unfinished buildings

Three mobile teams provide psycho-social assistance in the camps

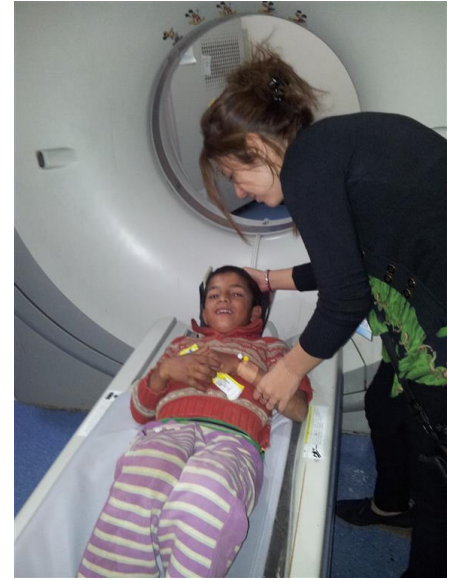
The mobile teams consist of committed young women, some of them Yazidi. They visit various refugee camps and other locations where Yazidi IDP's live and offer psychosocial assistance.

⁵ see http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1236%3Asecond-winter-in-refugee-state-does-not-provide-food&catid=35%3Anewsticker&Itemid=156

The teams provide hygienic items and health assistance to the women - an extremely important, but often forgotten part of the relief efforts as, unfortunately, women's basic needs tend to be neglected in emergency situations.



Health service / transport to the local hospital



The teams also gather data on the current plight of Yazidi IDP's, speak to female survivors of ISIS abuse who have returned from ISIS custody, and offer any aid possible. Additionally, the teams are in close contact with local authorities and other organizations in order to work together to provide further help to Yazidis, for example, arranging transport to hospitals for the sick and injured.

There are in total three Duhok teams, each consisting of two women. Four of the women are of Yazidi origin. This helps the teams to become easily accepted by the refugees.

One of the teams includes a psychologist (supported by Heartland Alliance).

The concept of mobile teams is based on more than ten years of experience with this approach. It was developed on the idea of going to where the women are and providing help within the women's environment, rather than taking them out of their living spaces.

The Duhok mobile teams are specifically focusing on the Yazidi women and girls that have survived ISIS slavery, as they are very traumatized, both physically and mentally. More than 650 women and girls benefited.

It is estimated that more than 5,000 girls and women were captured by ISIS and, according to first hand reports, these girls were systematically raped and physically abused nearly to the point of death. The women and the girls that return are in dire need of various types of assistance – the physical consequences of sexual abuse include unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other physical issues, to say nothing of the grave and far reaching mental trauma inflicted upon these women. The strict moral norms and traditional culture of the affected community, which has always been hesitant to have its women exposed to outsiders, is an additional obstacle to provide any assistance.



Providing sanitary goods in Khanke camp

All costs for the 104 families were covered by private donations.

The three mobile teams were funded by the German BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development).

2.8. SUPPORT FOR YAZIDI GIRLS WHO RETURNED FROM ISIS SLAVERY

Jinda Center⁶ is providing psycho-social assistance and emergency help to young women and girls who escaped or were rescued from ISIS captivity where they were abused as sex slaves. The goal is to stabilize and empower these girls in a pleasant and friendly environment outside the camps by means of capacity building, learning opportunities and participation in group activities.



Lots of space for a comfortable stay



The staff are involved with all their heart

Jinda Center has been operating for 6 months now. During this period of time it was able to provide services for ten groups of young women and girls.

Each group consisted of 35-36 girls. In total, 353 girls benefited (as of 31 October).

Individual cases were treated on various levels, i.e. health care, social, psychological and legal assistance, as well as assistance in dealing with bureaucratic procedures in the governmental directorates.

Jinda staff members have received several trainings focused on working with traumatized victims of violence, offered by Salt Foundation, Heartland Alliance, UNICEF, UNESCO and Jiyan Foundation. Since November, a nurse specialized in family planning, nutrition and prenatal support is constantly working with Jinda Center, providing training, courses and individual care.



⁶ http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1237%3Ajinda-center-a-beacon-of-hope-for-yazidi-girls-who-escaped-isis-slavery&catid=35%3Anewsticker&Itemid=156

Background

During their work in the camps in Duhok, WADI's mobile teams witnessed the unbearable situation of those women from Yazidi and other minority communities who had fled or were liberated from ISIS captivity. They are the target group of this project.

While these women and girls are in a very unstable mental state, there is often a lack of understanding of what they have gone through among family members and community. Instead of getting support, some even become a target of insult and harassment. The precarious and monotonous conditions in the camps are not contributing to the women's mental and physical recovery. Many suffer from depression and strong feelings of guilt, and some show suicidal tendencies.

The project

The idea of this project is to give these women and girls a break from this miserable and counterproductive atmosphere which only adds sadness to their suffering, and empower them to raise their voice and have a say in the peace and reconciliation process.

In the city center of Duhok, WADI opened *Jinda Center* for those Yazidi women who fled and/or were rescued from ISIS captivity. Groups of affected women and girls are invited and brought to the center on a daily basis. The center aims to make the women feel "at home" and give them space to relax, enjoy the all-female community and participate in new activities.

Jinda Center plays an important role as a coordination hub between the target group and the community. It is recognized and valued by all parties, for instance the KRG Director-General of Yazidi Affairs said *Jinda* is one of the best examples for sustainable service in Duhok area. The center is maintaining excellent relations to the High Council of Women's Affairs (HCWA), the local hospital and all camp administrations. *Jinda/WADI* is an established and trusted organization, hence camp doors are always open for the teams to involve women and girls in their activities.

The center is offering referral for psychological aid, health aid and guidance, legal and social aid, as well as recreational aid. The women are receiving awareness trainings on women's rights and women's health, and they are free to participate in various kinds of educations and vocational courses.

After some time when they have stabilized and regained some level of self-consciousness, they will, encouraged and supported by the center staff, set up female community meetings to discuss the imminent needs and problems of women in the community. Thus, women particularly affected by conflict will be engaged as a positive force for transformational change and peacebuilding.

Three experienced mobile teams are part of the center (funded from the German government). They are based at the center, continuing their daily activities in the camps and unfinished buildings, providing health, social and psychological assistance for female minority IDP's. The teams are also responsible for locating suitable candidates for the Activity Center.

WADI's sustainability strategy includes the strengthening of civil society and local self-organization. Repeatedly WADI released successful projects to become independent local CSOs. *Jinda Center* is also about to take this step and become a close cooperation partner of WADI.

A Working Day In Jinda Center

Each group of girls is visiting the center for 2 consecutive weeks. On four days per week (8 days in total) Jinda is picking them up in the camps, taking them to the center where they are able to participate in the center's courses and activities.

At 8am a 24 passenger-seat bus is picking up those girls who registered for the courses. Most of them escaped from ISIS. They are selected by Wadi's mobile teams, funded by the German BMZ.

Guided by a health specialist, a psychologist and a social worker, the girls spend the day in the center until the afternoon. They eat with the staff and enjoy some leisure time. A tailor, a hairdresser, a beautician and a handcraft teacher offer trainings in their professions. Then at 3pm, they return to the camps.

At the same time, Jinda staff along with Wadi's teams are working on individual and special cases and follow them. In many cases help was provided, such as dealing with difficulties concerning bureaucracy, organizing a tent and related issues, or referring cases to other governmental or non-governmental agencies to receive assistance on fields Jinda is not covering. In some cases working opportunities were facilitated.

Jinda as an Organization & Their Work with other Organizations and Agencies

In 2016, Jinda will become a local NGO. The licenses will be finished soon.

Although not yet registered, during the last six months Jinda was able to become an essential organization in Duhok serving women and girls who suffered from war, displacement and GBV. Jinda is in constant cooperation with 16 other NGOs and governmental organizations.

Some essential services provided by Jinda's extensive local network after the girls' two-week stay in Jinda Day-Care Centre:

1. Three Wadi teams are working to provide psycho-social assistance to female IDPs in the camps around Duhok. They are funded by the German BMZ. Among others, they follow up the Jinda cases. In 2015 more than 650 women benefited.
2. Together with Heartland Alliance a two-year project for psychological and social assistance is implemented which includes the participants of the Jinda courses.
3. Jisur organization helps to do the paperwork for those girls who escaped ISIS and are chosen to go to Germany for special medical and psychological treatment. This project is funded by the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Whenever Jinda participants are chosen to participate in the program, Jinda coordinates between them.
4. With the help of UNESCO a special project for Syrian and Iraqi refugee students is implemented to help them to catch up to the formal education.
5. CIJA, a special court working on the Yazidi girls and their escape from ISIS, is in close cooperation with Jinda.

6. UNDP plans to carry out a Small Income Generating Project to help Yazidi girls and women with the support of Jinda.
7. UNAMI requested Jinda for a project on individual treatment and awareness raising on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
8. Girls and women who are seriously traumatized are referred to Jiyan Foundation for special treatment.
9. Jinda is in constant exchange with Harikar organization which provides legal support and distributes basic needs.
10. Jinda is as well in constant contact with Yazda organization, lobbying for the Yazidi tragedy and serving individual cases.
11. Regarding the governmental side, Jinda is cooperating with the Department for dealing with the cases of the Yazidi girls, the High Council of Women Affairs, and the hospitals.

Follow-up and Individual Support

After their stay in Jinda Centre, the girls receive individual care by WADI's mobile teams. The teams keep in touch and continue to visit the girls in the camps. Any assistance urgently needed will be provided or organized.

Cooperating intensively is part of the follow-up strategy with the above mentioned organizations. Special focus will be given to the development of the Small Income Generating Project which is planned by UNDP, including the integration of the girls who were part of the Jinda program.

This project was funded by UNICEF and SALT.

2.9. LOCAL DEMOCRACY

OXFAM PROGRAMME "AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF WOMEN IN THE MENA REGION"

October 2013 – April 2016

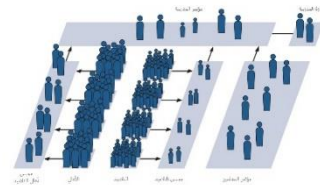
WADI is training several groups of youths to develop, conduct, and evaluate opinion polls in their areas. The youth groups discuss their chosen topic and the outcome of the polls in town hall meetings in local public spaces. Media is involved.

Conducting the opinion polls is not an end in itself - it is a way of training. The youths are free to choose a topic they think is an issue in their area, however it should have a reference to gender equality and UN Resolution 1325. The project is a means to encourage local debate, involve women and shift the focus to the community level where true democracy should be rooted.

The project is part of the HIVOS - Oxfam Novib project "Amplifying the voices of women", which focusses on the empowerment of women with special regard to the UN resolution 1325. Please find more information in our regular project reports.

In 2015, the training of several groups of youths in Ranya, Halabja, Kalar and Suleimaniyah continued. In 2014 they were trained to develop, conduct, and evaluate opinion polls in their areas and to discuss the outcome of the polls in town hall meetings in local public spaces.

مجلس المدينة هو الهيئة التي تتشكل من أعضاء المجلس المنتخبين من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة. المجلس المنتخب من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة. المجلس المنتخب من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة.



Example page, local democracy training folder



مجلس المدينة هو الهيئة التي تتشكل من أعضاء المجلس المنتخبين من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة. المجلس المنتخب من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة. المجلس المنتخب من قبل المواطنين في كل منطقة محلية. هذا المجلس هو المسؤول عن إدارة الشؤون المحلية في المنطقة.

In 2015 focus was laid on the presence and participation of women in public life, esp. in decision making positions. Surveys were conducted in all four places to measure the role of women in the governmental directorates- which is rather poor, as the evaluation in towns like Kalar showed.

Special training material on local democracy issues (i.e. student's boards in schools and universities, the role of trade unions) was translated to Kurdish and adapted to the realities in the country. This material was used in trainings for teachers, police officers, parliamentarians etc. and distributed among governmental officials.

In Halabja, special focus was directed on schools to encourage students' participation in decision-making-processes within the school. In Suleimaniyah, a group of students created an independant students' newspaper called "Pers". The second issued was distributed just a week ago.

This project was funded by Hivos.

2.10. SPI – PROJECTS FOR VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS

SPI organization prepared many activities in several villages and towns, especially Halabja, Goptapa, Suleimaniyah and the Balesan valley.

Halabja:

The city of Halabja is one of the most vulnerable places in the Kurdish Northern Iraq. The population suffered enormously under the massacres of the Iraqi Government in the late 80's. On the 16th of March 1988, the Iraqi Army bombed the city with poison gas, immediately killing about 5,000 civilians. Tens of thousands are still suffering from the long-term consequences of these attacks. The city was completely destroyed. The survivors either fled to Iran or were forced to militarily controlled collective towns.

SPI worked continuously in Halabja and held many seminars to create pressure on the government to make Halabja a governorate. On the 16th of March 2015 the decision was made and the people of Halabja were glad. The white flag became a symbol of peace in Halabja. It was raised together with the Iraqi and the Kurdish flag.

SPI also held many seminars to enhance the working level of organizations and their services, especially for providing and treating the chemical affected victims.



SPI participated on the 16th of March Halabja anniversary , the 20th of April events on the occasion of 100 years chemical weapons, and on the 20th of August anniversary of the Syria chemical attacks in Ghouta. Many activities were held and were published on Wadi's website.

Goptapa:

This village is located between Sulaymaniya and Kirkuk; about 67 km from Sulaymaniya. The village was bombed in 1987; 150 people were killed by the gas. People are still suffering from the aftermath of the chemicals and many commented that there are still people who need continued health treatment as a result of these chemical attacks.

Many activities were held in Goptapa, especially a center specialized in youth enhancement worked on the case of chemicals. Much attention was given to these activities from the media especially by NRT and Rudaw Channels.

Recently, many exhibitions were prepared regarding chemical attacks especially in Goptapa and Jalamord villages.

Also in Tutaqal village students' transportation has been provided and nearly 20 students got benefit of it.



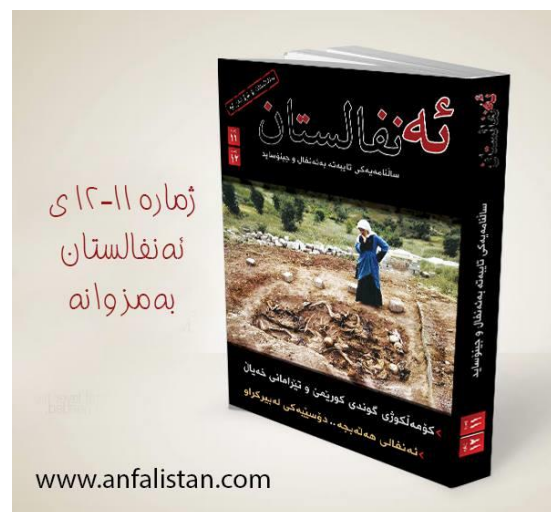
Announcement of exhibition in Goptapa

Sulimaniyah

The SPI representatives continuously worked on organizing and supervising the events related to the chemical cases. There is also a yearly journal named Anfalistan which is written by a SPI group member Omer Mohammad.

“Anfalistan” Magazine is one of the most well-known, annual independent publication. Its main theme is about the Anfal and chemical attacks that took place in the Kurdistan region and Iraq. This Magazine started as a private project of Mr. Omer Mohamad, who is also key contact person between WADI and the projects in the rural areas and villages. Since 5 years he has been a WADI team member. Initially he published “Anfalistan” by himself, and was the Editor in Chief of the magazine.

In previous years “Anfalistan” covered all WADI’s projects and published many reports about Green Cross and WADI activities. The magazine became a good source in introducing our projects to public.



Besides that “Anfalistan” is interested in the stories of victims from Chemical and Anfal Attacks. In each issue of “Anfalistan” there are many stories, articles and analysis about people from many regions, who sent their opinions to the magazine and have it published.

Through SPI we supported “Anfalistan” in 2015, as due to the new situation and protests in Kurdistan the Magazine suffered from funding shortages. However, even though 200 people supported the magazine

with their limited income, these private donations were not enough. WADI therefore decided to support this publication.

In 2015 No.11 and 12 were released. This journal contained many documents regarding the process of Anfal and chemical attacks and it is the only journal with such quality.

Balesan:

This valley is about 240 km to the North of Sulaymaniya. There are many villages in this valley, the most well known are Balesan and Shekwasanan. On 16th April 1987 these two villages and several others, were bombed with poison gas by the Iraqi army. As a result hundreds of civilians died and many more were injured. Additionally many of the villagers disappeared in the Anfal operations. In 2008, the Anfal operation was recognised as genocide by the Iraqi parliament. Consequently, the Iraqi court sentenced the high-ranking official responsible for the campaign to death. However, the local civilians until today have not benefitted from these legal outcomes, but are still living in economically, socially and environmentally bad situations. There is a serious lack of health- and construction services to improve



SPI team providing stationary to Balesan school

infrastructures. Basically, the Iraqi and Kurdish regional governments are continuing to show serious neglect of these regions.

SPI activities in Balesan area had been continuous in 2015. Many educational and awareness course had been held for the students in this area.

SPI worked with Shekh Wasanan village, Balesan and Khate to work with the government and provide treatments and equipments for the chemical attack victims.

In 2015 many activities were carried out in Balesan chemical attack anniversary and in Shekh Wasanan.

Also, some basic services were provided such as fixing the sewerage system and providing electrical equipments for the village's school and nearly 76 students got benefits in Shekh Wasanan village.

Direct beneficiaries in total: 480

This project was funded by Green Cross.

3. SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

Economic and political crisis

Weak institutions and increasing instability are countering the rule of law. People's priorities are shifting away from female health and women's and children's rights.

Iraqi Kurdistan is currently facing a serious economic crisis caused by the continuing fall of the oil price and the conflict about the deal on oil exports and revenue sharing between Iraq's government and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The continuing war against ISIS is a large additional burden. Salaries are not paid anymore, banks stopped disbursing assets, and real estate prices are on sharp decline.

Additionally, Iraqi Kurdistan is in political crisis because President Barzani's presidential mandate expired and he refused to leave office. The tense situation has already led to some civil unrest and also hampered WADI's work in many ways, for example money transfer has become more difficult.

On the ground, women's rights are increasingly perceived as a minor issue considering all the existential problems and threats people face. This made it occasionally more difficult to operate.

However, WADI is convinced that this is not a reason to drop the efforts. To the contrary, in such a conflict situation women's rights are jeopardized and need to be defended more decisively than ever.

Currency drop

From July 2014 to December 2015, the Euro lost 30 Cent which is almost 25% of its value.

This strong drop affected WADI's ability to fulfil its contractual obligations to some European donors. It required some cutbacks. Among others, WADI was forced to shut down the Women's Rights supplement in Awene newspaper which was in fact a very popular part of this newspaper and a good means to make people familiar with certain women's rights issues.

4. ARTICLES & MEDIA

In the following please find a selection of international media coverage WADI projects and initiatives received. In matters of the plight of Yazidi girls and female genital mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan WADI remained a leading news source. Kurdish language media covered numerous activities and reported extensively, but is not included in this list.

January 20, The Weekly Standard: "Female Genital Mutilation a Growing Problem in Iran", by Stephen Schwartz and Irfan al-Alawi, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/female-genital-mutilation-growing-problem-iran/824155?page=1>

February 11, Ekurd Daily: "International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament", <http://ekurd.net/international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-fgm-in-iraqi-kurdistan-parliament-2015-02-11>

February 14, ZDF TV, mona lisa: "Der Hölle entkommen", <http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/beitrag/video/2342076/Der-Hoelle-entkommen?ipad=true#/beitrag/video/2342076/Der-Hoelle-entkommen>

February 17, NBC: "Aid Workers Help Yazidi Women Return to Life After ISIS Nightmare" by James Novogrod, <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/aid-workers-help-yazidi-women-return-life-after-isis-nightmare-n307206>

March 15, Bild: "Sie will Flüchtlingskindern eine Zukunft geben" by Antje Schippmann und Claas Weinmann, <http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/lehrerin/kumry-will-fluechtlingskindern-eine-zukunft-geben-40144122.bild.html>

March 23, Focus: "Wir waren Kriegsbeute" by Andrea-Claudia Hoffmann, http://www.focus.de/politik/ausland/islamischer-staat/politik-und-gesellschaft-wir-waren-kriegsbeute_id_4541290.html

April 15, Spiegel Online: „Vom IS missbrauchte Frauen: "Morgens ab halb zehn kamen die Männer"“, <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/is-der-islamische-staat-vergewaltigt-systematisch-jesiden-a-1028675.html>

May 11, Bild: „Wenn wir geweint haben, haben sie gelacht“, by Antje Schippmann und Claas Weinmann, <http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/isis/wir-jesiden-sind-durchs-fegfeuer-gegangen-40450084.bild.html>

May 16, Zeit Online: „Das Trauma der Jesiden“ by Martin Gehlen, <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2015-05/jesiden-frauen-sexueller-missbrauch-trauma/seite-2>

June 16, Rudaw: „Kurdish FGM campaign seen as global model“, by Judit Neurink, <http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/160620151>

June 17, The Weekly Standard: “Confronting FGM in Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan”, by Stephen Schwartz and Irfan al-Alawi, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/confronting-fgm-iran-and-iraqi-kurdistan/973118>

June 30, Aljazeera: “Halabja gas attack victims welcome Iraqis fleeing ISIL” by Jonathan Brown, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/halabja-gas-attack-victims-iraqis-fleeing-isil-150624113156002.html>

June 30, Rudaw: „Halabja group launches ‘Summer of Peace’“, by Osamah Golpy, <http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/300620152>

July 22, Aljazeera: “For Yazidi girls escaping ISIL, a long road to healing” by Jonathan Brown, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/yazidi-girls-isil-raped-150722093100221.html>

July 27, Foreign Affairs: “Under the Knife” by Christina Asquith, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/turkey/2015-07-27/under-knife>

August 25, NBC: “ISIS Terror: Yazidi Woman Recalls Horrors of Slave Auction” by Richard Engel and James Novogrod, <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-terror-yazidi-woman-recalls-horrors-slave-auction-n305856>

September 9, Bild: “Flüchtlingskinder können wieder lernen”, by Antje Schippmann, <http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/irak/bild-hilfsorganisation-unterstuetzt-syrische-fluechtlingskinder-42504372.bild.html>

September 11, WeserKurier: „Das Geschäft mit den Geiseln“ by Birgit Svensson, http://www.weser-kurier.de/startseite_artikel,-Das-Geschaefit-mit-den-Geiseln-arid,1205990.html

September 21, l'Espresso: "Noi, donne yazide, così resistiamo all'Is" by Sara Lucaroni,
<http://espresso.repubblica.it/plus/articoli/2015/09/21/news/noi-donne-yazide-cosi-resistiamo-all-is-1.230366?preview=true>

September 16, teleSUR TV: "Rear Window -A Mile in their Shoes: Testimonies of Yazidi Victims",
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNNdINpmTb4&feature=youtu.be>

December 1, MSNBC, documentary about the Halabja Sumer of Peace: http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1220&Itemid=177

December 28, fusion.net, "These amazing women-only units are helping girls who escaped ISIS", by Andrea DiCenzo, <http://fusion.net/story/248305/girls-who-escaped-isis/>

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