



Date: June 23, 2020

From: Joint Help for Kurdistan <info@jointhelpkurdistan.org>

To: Impact Middle East

PO Box 2246

Dover, OH 44622

To Whom It May Concern:

We request that Impact Middle East (IME) remove the photos of two individuals linked to stories on your Facebook page and/or website because they are not the people discussed in those stories.

The first is a photo of Dr. Namam Ghafouri, pictured in a red shirt and red scarf on a January 30, 2020 story entitled “Growing Every Week” found at <https://bit.ly/3173RRb>. The story is about an Egyptian woman who attends an IME house church near the Nile. Dr. Ghafouri is a Swedish cardiovascular surgeon who does charitable work for Joint Help for Kurdistan in Iraq and Syria. Your story has nothing to do with Dr. Ghafouri.

The second is a photo of a woman named Fareeda (aka Farida) sitting in front of a blue background with the words “Human Rights and Democracy” in a November 7, 2019 post entitled “Nancy’s Ministry” found on both your website and Facebook page. Like many other women in northern Iraq, Fareeda is a survivor of ISIS captivity, but she is Yazidi, not Muslim, and she has not converted to or embraced Christianity. Your story is about a woman named Magida (with no asterisk to indicate the name is made up) and is not Fareeda’s story.

Like you, we are a charitable organization focused on helping those in need in the Middle East. Our focus is on those indigenous peoples displaced and persecuted by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) since 2014. We provide medical and charitable assistance primarily to those living in camps for internally displaced people in Northwest Iraq, particularly the Yazidi. The Yazidi are a closed society and it is very important for them to continue in their own faith tradition, embracing neither Islam nor Christianity.

Your use of Fareeda’s picture on the “Nancy’s Ministry” story of Magida is literally endangering Fareeda. She cannot be seen as converting to Christianity and remain a member of the Yazidi society.



Your use of Dr. Ghafouri's picture on the story of the Egyptian woman may be misrepresented as an endorsement of your organization by Dr. Ghafouri. She has given no such endorsement and was not aware of your organization until someone informed her that her image was being improperly used. If you look closely at the picture you posted of her, Dr. Ghafouri is wearing a Joint Help for Kurdistan t-shirt.

We do not know how you came into possession of pictures of Dr. Ghafouri and Fareeda, but now that you know they are not the persons in the stories you have posted, we expect that you will immediately correct those stories by removing their pictures. We further request that you never use these pictures again on any of your materials.

As a fellow organization attempting to better the lives of people in need in the Middle East, we know how important it is to tell their stories. But those stories must be told truthfully, and the use of someone else's image on a story that is not about them destroys your credibility, undermines the charitable reason for the story, and causes harm to the persons who are misrepresented. We look forward to seeing you correct these two stories as soon as possible by removing the pictures of Dr. Ghafouri and Fareeda.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Board of Joint Help for Kurdistan

Narin Rashid

Stephanie May

Adam Bott

Neman Ghafouri

Nazdar Ghafouri

Katrinia Kraemer (JHK-US)