



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Bring back vulnerable Australian women and children stranded in Syrian refugee camp

September 9, 2020

We are very distressed with media reports (The Daily Telegraph "Australian women and children dragged from Syrian refugee camp in midnight security raid") that Australian women and children have been forcefully dragged from a Syrian refugee camp in a midnight security raid and that they were brutally strip-searched and handcuffed.

"Our hearts are with the Australian women and children who have been left stranded in Syrian, al-Hawl camp, whose rights have been terribly violated. The Australian Government must step in and demand the immediate release of these women and children and bring them back home." Said Dr. Rateb Jneid, President, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils.

It is an attack on Australia's sovereignty for any foreign nation or designated terrorist groups such as the PKK offshoot, the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, to mistreat Australian citizens in this way.

"These Australians have been held virtual prisoners against their will. Australia is more than able to rehabilitate these women and children if they had been directly involved in any wrongdoing." Said Dr. Rateb Jneid

Page 1 of 2



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

We note that Save the Children and Mr Kamalle Dabboussy, whose daughter and grandchildren are in the camp, have made several attempts to rescue the helpless Australian woman and children to no avail.

“The mistreatment of helpless and vulnerable women and children by tearing down their only means of shelter and seizing them, barefooted and in handcuffs is never justified.” Said Dr. Jneid

Dr. Jneid made the following appeal to the Prime Minister: “We appeal to our Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP to immediately intervene and bring them home.”

Authorised:

Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC