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WHO Inter-Regional Workshop on
Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence

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Country Statement from Iraq

by

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I have the pleasure to participate in this workshop but unfortunately I was not able to write the papers which you asked doctor Maghazji about it because the time was very short to write such comprehensive paper.

Nevertheless I shall give a short account about drug dependency in Iraq and our policy and treatment facilities.

First of all I would like to confirm one important fact that is no Drug dependency problem in Iraq at time being. What we have now only few scattered cases which are mainly from medical staff and related personnel.

In order to realize this fact we have to take one of the main hospital dealing with these patients and see the number of them who are asking treatment. Ibn Rushid Hospital is a good example although it's a small hospital but it is the main hospital which accept such patients. In spite of the number of alcoholic dependened patients who are asking treatment increase progressively in the last few years the number of drug dependent patients admitted to this hospital still very few only two cases in the last three years are treated in this hospital so we are not able to say we have any drug dependency problem in our country in the same sense which present in European countries.

As far as the availability of drug is concern apart from hospital pharmacies and private pharmacies there are no other source of drug. The drug given only by prescription and to the patients who needed it.

Ministry of Health made a new regulation about prescription of narcotic and psychotropic drug the doctor who wish to prescribe narcotic drug they have to have a special prescription book given only by permission of Ministry of Health. The absence of other sources of drug this mainly due to this regulation and the law very firm with the people smuggling drug. Our policies at the time being are to prevent this problem to raise in our country and to assess the drug dependency in more scientific way. This by participation with such workshop and meeting in order to share the experiences of other countries in this field.

The Iraq has been adopted the recommendation of second Arab International Conference of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction for prevention of drug dependency and alcoholism. The main point of these recommendation are concentrated on cultivation of the religious and moral aspects of youth and attention on the role of social services in schools and factories and utilizing the youth ability and leisure time in useful hobbies and in response to these recommendations Ministry of Health will open alcoholism and drug addiction center attached to Ibn Rushid Hospital for treating such cases as well as to assess drug dependency in more scientific way. As far as there is no drug dependency problem in Iraq so there is no need for a voluntary organization at the time being.

Training and research work in this field are very limited due to the fact which I mentioned about. Treatment facilities are limited as well. The patients are treated in general psychiatric ward. And the method use by replacement of hard drug to soft one with social support and rehabilitation unfortunately the treatment was not encouraged when the new drug addict center will open we shall introduce other method of treatment and to follow our patients in scientific way. Most of the drug addict patients who are asking treatment are male patient most of them above thirty year old from the middle social class and mainly from medical staff and other related personnel. The drug addict in the teenager are unknown in our country.