

Nebil, Riva and Lara (and granny!)



Nebil was attempting to get into Europe in 2014 for re-union with his brother. He obtained a 'dodgy' visa to get into Austria in January and travelled there with his brother in law and then made their way across Europe. He got into Holland but was arrested there. The police found his fingerprints in Poland so he was told he could either be sent there – or back to Iraq. He was taken in a blacked

out car to the airport and handed over to security who put him on a plane for Erbil.

Meanwhile Riva left Mosul with the extended family to Qaraqosh in June 2014. Nebil managed to meet up with them there. After 2 months or so ISIS attacked the village – two children were killed and the Kurdish soldiers abandoned their posts and ran – so they ran too. Even arriving at the checkpoint it took 10 hours to get through with Riva's father suffering from diabetes and heart problems.

They have completed the IOM interviews process and have got approval to go to Santiago in the USA – but the process could still take another year. Riva was a math's teacher in Iraq and he was a government employee. They consider themselves incredibly fortunate as a catholic aid agency is covering their rent for a year – but they have nothing for food, utilities or any other bills. Nebil would love to be doing something – but he is not allowed to work. Their daughter Lara is fortunate and is able to go to school.

---