



International Tracing of Family Members

Family Reunification Support

Samiras' Story

The life of Samira was changed forever by the conflict in her native country of Iraq. Her husband had already been abducted twice for political reasons. After the third abduction Samira received word that her husband had been murdered. This tragic event was the reason why she fled with her children to Syria. From there she managed to enter Germany as part of a humanitarian refugee scheme.*

Samira never gave up hope of her husband still being alive. She first of all submitted a tracing request to the German Red Cross Tracing Service to obtain new information about her husband in this way. In actual fact, a few months later she received the news she was waiting for, that her husband had survived the abduction and was living in Baghdad.

The German Red Cross Tracing Service supported Samira's wish to reunite her family in Germany. However, this desire appeared doomed to failure due to seemingly almost insurmountable legal difficulties. After obtaining in-depth legal advice, the German Red Cross Tracing Service recommended that Samira applied for asylum in Germany. The asylum application was successful. This proved crucial in improving Samira's legal status and enabled her husband to join his wife in Germany without having to prove either knowledge of the German language or a secure means of earning a living. A couple of weeks later Samira was finally able to meet her husband at the airport.

* Name changed by the editorial team

Contact

German Red Cross Tracing Service situated near you



Transregional

International Search, Red Cross Messages and Term of Imprisonment Attestations

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Further information and newsletter:
www.drk-suchdienst.de



German Red Cross Tracing Service



The German Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



Foto: IKRK



Foto: Michael von Bergen/IKRK



Foto: Pedram Yazdi/IKRK

What we do

Trace family members

Have you lost contact with a relative and you do not know where he or she is living?

We trace people all over the world who have been separated from you or are missing due to

- war and armed conflicts
- catastrophes,
- expulsion and escape
- migration

and find out what has happened to them.

Would you like to trace your family on the internet?

At www.familylinks.icrc.org/europe you can find photos of people who are also looking for their relatives. You can also leave your own photo there.

Connecting families

Do you not have the opportunity to contact your family?

All over the world we convey so-called “Red Cross Messages” between families living in regions affected by conflicts and catastrophes and their relatives in Germany. Those messages are often the only chance for separated family members to stay in contact.

What we do

Reunite families

Has your family been scattered over different countries due to war, expulsion or escape? Would you like to live with your family again?

We provide advice and support with regard to all questions relating to family reunification.

- Advice on the legal requirements relevant to family reunification in Germany
- Support with visa applications
- Contacts at other regional and international aid organisations

Additional service: term of attestations of detention

Do the German authorities require you to submit an attestation of detention abroad?

We offer assistance all over the world when attestations of terms of detention are needed. If the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited you during a term of imprisonment abroad, we will try to obtain an attestation.

How we work

About us

- We are part of an international tracing service network consisting of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a total of 189 national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- In accordance with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we are neutral, impartial and do not treat people differently based on ethnic background or religious affiliation.
- For many decades we have been reunifying families across borders.
- We have due to our many years of experience acquired in-depth knowledge of legal requirements and built up reliable contacts with other institutions.
- Your data and the data of the person we are trying to trace is treated as strictly confidential.
- We are an independent aid organisation and it is only on your express wish that we cooperate with authorities in Germany and abroad.
- We do not charge for our services.