

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES REGARDING QUEBECERS RETURNING FROM SYRIA/IRAQ




130-250
 CANADIANS OF WHOM
20-30
 ARE QUEBECERS




REASONS FOR RETURNING

OBSTACLES TO RETURNING

DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME IN QUÉBEC

INTERVENTION / REHABILITATION


- Remorse concerning family / pressure from family or friends
- Disillusionment regarding initial expectations (monetary or symbolic) and with the brutal reality of war
- Disgust at abuses committed by armed groups on the ground, especially towards civilian populations
- Inability to tolerate highly rudimentary physical conditions (lack of drinking water, medicine shortages, etc.) any longer
- Fear of allied bombing or of the consequences of military retreat by the Islamic State or other armed groups
- In some cases, strategic reasons aimed at committing acts of violence

- Arrest (or execution) for «desertion» by the armed groups to which returning individuals belonged
- Capture by Kurdish forces or Syrian rebel groups, which may result in imprisonment, torture, or even execution
- Being physically unable to reach a secure area outside Syria or Iraq (especially Turkey) due primarily to injuries or the presence of young children
- Lack of legal documents (passport) and fear of being arrested upon return to Québec

- Identification as a potential risk to national security
- Financial difficulties (debts due to loans obtained prior to departure)
- Obtaining recognition of children born in Syria or Iraq
- Fragile psychological state and broad range of mental health issues (post-traumatic stress and potential desensitization to violence)

- The fundamental underlying principle is public safety
- Accepting accountability for one's actions abroad
- Individualized psychosocial support for persons returning from Syria or Iraq, based on their situation and needs (psychological, social or other)
- Approach (punitive or otherwise) tailored to each individual's profile