Mustafa Abed is a 14-year-old in Fallujah, Iraq. In 2004, during the catastrophic US bombing of Fallujah, Mustafa was severely wounded. He lost a leg, part of his pelvis and his intestine was severed. Through a non-profit group called “No More Victims,” a group of Portlanders brought Mustafa and his father, Ahmed, to Portland in 2008 for four months so that Mustafa could receive life-saving medical care and a prosthetic leg. Mustafa returned home to Iraq stable, but with some serious chronic renal problems.

Due to the ongoing warfare in Iraq and the very difficult situation there, we lost contact with Mustafa and his family in 2010. In early July of 2016, Mustafa was featured on an episode of PBS Newshour. In that report, we learned that the family had to evacuate Fallujah due to the warfare between ISIS and the Iraqi army and, like tens of thousands of others, are living in a refugee camp outside of the city.

Upon seeing the PBS story, we immediately contacted the reporter, Jane Arraf. She and her colleagues on the ground assisted us in contacting the family. Since July, through the generosity of many of your donations and via contacts made through Oregon PSR and through Mercy Corps, we arranged for Mustafa to have a medical exam, sent the medical supplies he requires and have sent two installments of cash to enable the family to get basic medical supplies that they otherwise would not be able to afford.

When Mustafa and Ahmed were in Portland, they won our hearts. It has been so wonderful to be in contact again and we look forward to helping Mustafa in whatever ways we can.