



Iraq – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 15 December 2015

Are Arabs in Mousel (Mosul) at risk of attack by ISIS?

A Landinfo report translated into English by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (Belgium), COI unit, in a section titled “Mosul” (section 2.1), refers to the rule of ISIS (ISIL) in Mosul as follows:

“ISIL immediately got going conforming the community. In Mosul, they rule with an iron fist based on their self-defined Sharia-based laws. Women are forced to wear full veils over their hair and face (niqab or burqa) and the sale of cigarettes, alcohol, movies and music are prohibited. In December last year, when ISIL had come under heavy military pressure, the people's mobility and communication abilities were further weakened by shutting down most of the mobile network and Internet. Measures have also been introduced to control the inhabitants' freedom of movement. All entry and exit to and from the province is controlled by checkpoints. In order to be allowed to leave the city, one must reportedly place a guarantee that they will return. Critical pressure was quickly cracked down on by ISIL and much of the information from Mosul has been disseminated via blogs and other testimony by phone or e-mail to journalists outside ISIL's areas. As the brutality spread, dissatisfaction with the new rulers increased, including amongst Sunni Muslims, who in the first phase had a positive response to the new regime. The restrictions on the mobile network and people's access to the Internet has led to few critical voices being heard.” (Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (Belgium), COI unit (22 June 2015) *Iraq: The situation in Ninewa province*, p.7)

A UN General Assembly report, in a section titled “Background” (paragraph 11), states:

“ISIL marked the one-year anniversary of the capture of Mosul, Ninewa Governorate. It continued to have control over all aspects of everyday life in the city. Dress codes have been imposed and freedom of movement is severely restricted. ISIL has imposed its own education curriculum, and demands steep rents and taxes. Punishment for violating ISIL rules is severe, often imposed by its self-appointed courts, and included flogging, amputation, beheading, stoning, immolation and other cruel and unlawful punishment. Reports have been received of a food scarcity in some areas under ISIL control in the Governorate.” (UN General Assembly (27 July 2015) *Technical assistance provided to assist in the promotion and protection of human rights in Iraq : Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, p.4)

In a section titled “Unlawful killings and abductions” (paragraph 19) this report states:

“In particular, ISIL continued to target individuals and groups, including former members of the Iraqi security forces, public figures, professionals and persons perceived to be associated with the Government or against ISIL ideology or rule. Sources reported that, on 9 June, ISIL killed 134 former members of the Iraqi security forces by shooting them in the head in Mosul, Ninewa. The victims had been held captive for months and forced to ‘repent’ to ISIL, whose members suspected that they intended to join forces to liberate Mosul. Reports received described how ISIL also targeted and murdered religious and community leaders, as well as professionals, including journalists and doctors, who refused to conform to its rules or to work in its service.” (ibid, p.6)

See also paragraph 20 which states:

“ISIL carried out executions following sentences imposed by its self-appointed courts, particularly in Mosul. Sources reported that residents were gathered and forced to watch executions and other cruel treatment. Often reasons for killings and abductions were unknown.” (ibid, p.6)

A UN Security Council report, in a section titled “Human rights developments and activities” (paragraph 43), states:

“ISIL continued to abduct, kill and punish those opposed to its ideology and rule. This included religious leaders, former public sector employees, journalists, lawyers, academics and students, former election candidates, members of the Iraqi security forces and the popular mobilization forces, and persons associated with political parties that oppose it. Examples include the public execution in Ramadi in July of eight civilians accused of cooperating with the Iraqi security forces; the abduction of 53 employees of the Independent High Electoral Commission in Mosul on 24 July, 28 of whom were killed the following day; the public execution of the Imam of the Hamid Mosque in Mosul for allegedly criticizing the terrorist group; and the public execution of a journalist in Mosul in August. Also in Mosul in August, ISIL posted a list of over 2,000 names of individuals whom it claimed to have executed.” (UN Security Council (26 October 2015) *First report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 2233 (2015)*, p.10)

A report from the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), in a section titled “Killings of civilians, including community and religious leaders”, states:

“UNAMI/OHCHR received a large number of verified reports that ISIL killed civilians for refusing to support the group. For instance, on 5 January, in the Ghizlani military base in southern Mosul, Ninewa, ISIL murdered a leader of the al-Jabor tribe. The victim had been abducted in August 2014, and had been accused of encouraging people to join the ‘Mosul Liberation Movement’, an armed group formed to fight ISIL. On 21 February, ISIL publicly executed two men, 29 and 32 years old, in central Mosul by shooting them in the head. It was reported that ISIL had accused the men of encouraging people to resist the group.” (UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (13 July 2015) *Report on the Protection of Civilians in the Armed Conflict in Iraq: 11 December 2014 – 30 April 2015*, pp.10-11)

This section of the report refers to a number of executions in Mosul as follows:

“On 29 December ISIL executed four doctors in Mosul. According to local media, two of the doctors were executed for refusing to work in field hospitals or treat wounded ISIL fighters. On 4 January, ISIL abducted an unknown number of residents of Dour district, Salah al-Din, and extrajudicially executed eight of them, including four government employees. The government employees had reportedly ‘repented’, but ISIL killed them anyway. ISIL posted a picture of those executed online. In Ninewa, on 6 January, ISIL extrajudicially executed three female lawyers in central Mosul. The reason for the executions is unknown. On 7 January, ISIL extrajudicially executed four doctors in central Mosul – although the exact reasons for their killing is not known. On the afternoon of 10 February, ISIL executed a female City Council employee at the Ninewa Provincial Building in Mosul. She had been abducted from her house in al-Baladiyat area of eastern Mosul two days before her execution. On 7 April, the body of a doctor, who had reportedly been abducted from a hospital in Mosul on 17 January by ISIL, was recovered with three bullet wounds to the chest. On 26 April, ISIL killed a journalist in the Bab al-Toub area of central Mosul. The journalist had reportedly been abducted on 6 April for using his mobile phone. (ibid, p.11)

In a section titled “Killings and torture and cruel and inhuman treatment following illegal/irregular/unlawful courts”, this report states:

“On 20 December, ISIL executed five female members of the Yezidi community in al-Ghizlani camp, a former Iraqi Army base south of Mosul taken by ISIL in June. The females had been sentenced to death by hanging by ISIL self-appointed courts. On 16 January, a 23-year-old woman was stoned to death after being accused of adultery by an ISIL self-appointed court in the Ghabat area of northern Mosul. Photographs of the woman being stoned were published online. On 17 January, an Imam from Mosul’s Grand Mosque and an Imam from the Nabi Younis Mosque in Mosul were abducted by ISIL at their homes in al-Tahreer and al-Zahra neighbourhoods of Mosul. On 18 January, the Imam from Mosul’s Grand Mosque was sentenced to death by an ISIL self-appointed court and was executed by being shot in the head on the same day. The whereabouts of the second imam are unknown, as are the reasons for the abduction and killing. On 1 February, two police officers, a colonel and a captain, were executed after an ISIL self-appointed court sentenced them to death in al-Ghazlani military camp, southern Mosul. On the evening of 18 February, a 27 year-old-male journalist was also executed in al-Ghizlani military camp after being sentenced by an ISIL self-appointed court. The victim, who had been abducted by ISIL along with 13 other journalists in November, used to work as a correspondent for Sama al-Mosul TV channel owned by the Governor of Ninewa. On 11 February, ISIL abducted a 31-year old man from his home inside Mosul city and executed him publicly in Bab Al-Toub district of central Mosul two days later on charges of practicing sorcery after being sentenced by an ISIL self-appointed court in Mosul.” (ibid, p.13)

This section of the report also states:

“On 31 March, a 47-year-old man was publicly stoned to death in Dawasa area of central Mosul. An ISIL self-appointed *court chief* read an ‘indictment’ before the killing in which it was claimed that the individual was being punished for not following ISIL instructions. On 8 April, a journalist working for a local channel was shot to death in al-Qayyarsh, southern Mosul, after

sentencing by an ISIL self-appointed court. On 20 April, ISIL publicly killed a former member of the Mosul City Council by beheading, following a decision by an ISIL self-appointed court. On 27 April, ISIL publicly stoned to death two men, 22 and 26 years old, in central Mosul. The men were accused of adultery and a decision condemning them was read before they were killed.” (ibid, p.13)

A report from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty states:

“The names of 2,070 people were posted on a list compiled by the militant group, part of which was displayed on a wall of the local health ministry branch, several Mosul residents said. The list came with an order from IS, which has administered Mosul since taking over last year, for the ministry staff to deliver death certificates. Among those listed on the IS order were policemen, former army officers, local officials, lawyers, journalists, doctors, and rights activists. The names show that many women were also executed. A source at the Health Ministry said the people whose names were listed were accused by IS of ‘promoting ideas that distort Islam.’ All lived within the province of Nineveh, of which Mosul is the capital.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (8 August 2015) *Islamic State Executed 'Unprecedented' 2,070 Iraqis Around Mosul*)

A report from the Iranian FARS News Agency states:

“Member of the Iraqi Parliament Security and Defense Commission Nayef al-Shammari disclosed that the ISIL Takfiri terrorist group executes at least 50 civilians in the rebel-held city of Mosul each day. ‘We hope that the operation to liberate Nineveh province would be carried out faster, because an average of 50 people are being executed by the ISIL in Mosul per day,’ al-Shammari said.” (FARS News Agency (18 September 2015) *MP: ISIL Executes 50 Civilians in Iraqi Mosul Every Day*)

A Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty report states:

“September was yet another long month of murder, terror, and brutality for residents of Islamic State (IS)-controlled Mosul. IS militants in the northern Iraqi city carried out the execution-style killings of 455 people for the usual ‘crimes’ -- spying, apostasy, blasphemy, fornication, and mocking the ‘caliphate.’ The killings are documented in a report released on October 24 by Mosul Eye, the pseudonym of an Iraqi historian who has been documenting IS’s activities in Mosul since the militants overran the city in June 2014. IS has used its brutal system of killings and punishments to terrorize Mosul’s local population into obedience. This is clear from the report of the September 24 murder of a local restaurant owner, Karim Alumar. The 63-year-old had refused to close his restaurant during prayers, so IS militants had him publicly flogged in the Bab al-Tub neighborhood. But during the whipping, Alumar ‘blasphemed’ and was immediately beheaded.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (27 October 2015) *Beheadings, Whippings, & Terror: Another Month Of Brutality In IS-Controlled Mosul*)

An article from UK newspaper The Independent states:

“Residents used to be granted permission to leave for medical or business reasons, but that is now said to be rare. Trying to leave without permission

can result in execution, residents said. Many take the risk anyway. Life in Mosul had become intolerable, the former taxi driver said. Public punishments occur regularly. People suspected of being gay are thrown off buildings to their deaths. The hands of accused thieves are cut off and adulterers stoned. Smokers are lashed.” (The Independent (19 October 2015) *Isis in Iraq: Mosul residents are paying traffickers and risking their lives to escape cruel grip of Islamic State*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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