



IRAQ - Report

Report submitted to the Human Rights Committee for the periodic review of Iraq

Prepared by Ikram Center for Human Rights

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About the Ikram Center for Human Rights:

The Ikram Center for Human Rights is a non-governmental organization and a non-profit Iraqi human rights center, it established in 2006. Since the early days of its establishment, it has been monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Iraq, regardless of the identity of the victims or perpetrators, far from sectarian, religious, racial or ethnic discrimination.

The Ikram Center has continuous and unremitting efforts in the field of defending the victims of enforced disappearance in Iraq, whether those who were forcibly disappeared at the hands of the American occupation forces, local forces and their loyal sectarian militias, or those who were absent at the hands of ISIS terrorist militants during the period of its control over nearly a third of the country after the withdrawal of The army forces were in front of him and left the arena for him to kill the people of the stricken provinces who were and are still suffering under the yoke of government forces and government security agencies with their various names.

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1. General Background

After 2003, Iraq post US-led invasion was plagued by sectarian militias loyal to Iran, which, since its establishment, have committed the most heinous crimes against Iraqi civilians, and the resulting security chaos, the loss of state prestige, and widespread corruption in all government departments, with the perpetuation of a state of impunity over the past eighteen years. Amidst the complete absence of any international action against corrupt and embezzling politicians, and the repercussions of this that made Iraq top the list of the most dangerous countries for human life, and the most corrupt in the world.

And throughout the year 2021, Ikram Center for Human Rights monitored the continuation of terrorist attacks, field executions, assassinations, kidnappings and enforced disappearances targeting civilians in Iraq, which resulted in the killing and disappearance of hundreds of civilians, including dozens of women and children, in conjunction with the



escalation of the ongoing conflict of interests on Iraqi soil between Washington and its agents on the one hand, and Tehran and its affiliates on the other.

In addition to the accumulated corruption files that are being covered up by the controlling parties in the country. With the spread of drug trafficking, drug abuse, oil smuggling, the continuation of sabotage operations targeting the local economy, the exacerbation of the almost complete absence of basic services and the deterioration of infrastructure, along with artificial pressures that afflicted the Iraqi dinar that led to the continued depreciation of its exchange rate against foreign currencies resulted in a significant increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs. Amid increasing financial crises as a result of corruption, mismanagement and failed policies in the face of crises exacerbated by the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, the causes of economic collapse remain as successive Baghdad governments continue to smuggle money to Iran to save the deteriorating Iranian economy due to the economic sanctions imposed on it.

Besides: the deterioration and collapse continue in vital sectors such as the judiciary, education, health and other important sectors, with the neglect of the forced displacement and repeated displacement, as there are still about one million and two hundred thousand internally displaced people living in very poor humanitarian conditions, with the fading of hope of returning to their homes due to the widespread destruction happened to their homes and cities, the continuation of sectarian cleansing campaigns and the implementation of new phases of the demographic change scheme for the benefit of the Tehran government, similar to what happened in Jurf al-Sakhar.

In addition to that, the already mediocre relief operations still at risk due to the corruption of the concerned government agencies and their exploitation of the suffering of the displaced, furthermore, the current Ministry of Migration and Displacement admits the lack of capabilities to support the displacement camps.

For the eighteenth year in a row, Iraq remains one of the worst countries for women and children, with a marked decline in the rights of these two groups, with their continued exposure to murder, kidnapping, exploitation, human trafficking, imprisonment and



deprivation of the most basic rights, especially the right to education, while continuing the policy of ignorance and impoverishment of the Iraqi people, where half of Iraqis are illiterate and one third of them below the poverty line, amid a terrifying increase in unemployment and food insecurity, in conjunction with the escalation of the pace of regional segregation and the destruction of the requirements of peaceful coexistence among all components of Iraq, which characterized the country before the US-led invasion, as a result of the unfair quota system which leads to the adoption of the policy of exclusion and marginalization and not accepting the other.

In this report, we record the government's policy of silencing independent journalists and media activists who oppose its policies, and their continued targeting in light of a horrific reality that ravages freedom of expression, amid the constant threats against civil activists, human rights defenders and peaceful demonstrators, as arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, brutal torture, extrajudicial killing, and its exclusion from the Iraqi arena, and an undeclared systematic exile that is being implemented. At a time when tens of thousands of innocent prisoners are still subjected to widespread torture and face an imminent humanitarian catastrophe inside prisons that are overcrowded and lack the most basic necessities of life and health, in conjunction with the lack of preventive measures and the aggravation of the spread of the new Corona epidemic in government prisons² Which portends the inevitable fate that awaits them.

In last October, parliamentary elections were held, which witnessed an unprecedented popular boycott of about 85%, which confirms the great popular rejection of the continuation of the existing political system, and although the quota system guarantees the presence and privileges of the participating parties regardless of the election results, and as soon as the results were announced, the conflict began between the parties controlling the decision in Iraq, which included an attack on the home of Mustafa al- Kadhimi by drones which owned only by militias and government forces, in order to impose a political scene by force, away from the elections, this indicates that the existing political system is going through a major impasse, and that what happened reinforces the growing convictions of the Iraqi people that the elections have no value or effect in changing the tragic situation in Iraq.



2. Extrajudicial Killings (Article 6)

The continuation of terrorist attacks, field executions, assassinations and bombings that killed 1,745 civilians, hundreds of killing cases could not be verified or documented.

In a crime that embodies the terrorist approach of the government forces, which convert Iraqi homes into mass graves for their residents, on December 30th 2021, more than two hundreds of members of SWAT forces, armed with all kinds of weapons and missiles, surrounded a house in the in the Jableh area of Babil Governorate, and committed a horrific massacre, killing an entire family, numbering 20 people, most of whom were women, minors and children, in a series of murders that are committed emphasize the a killing spree of the those forces, and the testimonies of neighbors and relatives expose the official misleading of justice.

In addition, 6 mass graves were discovered containing the bodies and human remains of at least 1800 victims, including hundreds of women and minors.

These mass graves were distributed in the governorates of Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Babil and Anbar. The relevant authorities did not conduct fundamental investigations to find out the identity of the victims, nor did they allow any human rights or media body to visit the sites of those graves, and the perpetrators of those graves were not revealed until the date of the announcement of this report.

3. Arbitrary Detention, Enforced Disappearance and Executions (Article 9 and 14)

With regard to enforced disappearances, Ikram Center for Human Rights has documented 39 cases of enforced absence with information and evidence, 20 of them are emergency cases, including journalists, civil activists and human rights defenders, in addition to receiving reports of more than 500 absentees in last four years, and we stress



in this report that the fate of about thirty thousand Absent from the sons of the affected provinces is still unknown. Noting that the government's announcement that some of these disappeared are martyrs is another evidence that indicates its involvement in these crimes.

On the level of arbitrary detention, Ikram Center for Human Rights counted **9670** announced campaigns of raids and arrests, which resulted in the arrest of more than **71,000** citizens, most of them based on the slander of a secret informant, and the center monitored the killing of **133** citizens during those campaigns, while tens of thousands of innocent prisoners are still subjected to widespread torture and face an imminent humanitarian catastrophe in prisons that are overcrowded and lack the most basic necessities of life, in conjunction with the spread of the Corona epidemic.

On the issue of deaths in custody and the continuation of executions in Iraq, Ikram Center for Human Rights documented the death of **147** detainees during **2021**, **108** of whom died under or as a result of torture, and the other **39** died due to ill-treatment and the absence of medical services in prisons. In addition, the Ministry of Justice carried out death sentences by hanging against **20** detainees who were sentenced to death in rapid trials lack of the basic elements of justice.

4. Enforced Displacement and Migration (Article 12)

With regard to enforced displacement and migration, among the **6** million citizens who were forced to flee as a result of the indiscriminate and violent bombing of cities during the military operations to combat ISIS, about **1.2** million displaced people are still living in the neglected camps, suffering harsh humanitarian conditions, with the exacerbation of the feeling of diaspora, poverty and neglect, amid fading hope of returning to their homes due to the widespread destruction in their areas. In addition, there are more than **2.5** million displaced people living outside the camps, most of them in Baghdad and



the provinces of Kurdistan, or have returned to the ruins of their homes and destroyed areas. Thus, **62%** of those who were forced to leave their areas are still living in a state of displacement.

Moreover, Ikram Center monitored an increase in the number of displaced people during **2021** by **20%** compared with **2020**, and a reverse displacement due to the lack of basic services in their areas to which they returned.

On the level of demographic change and regional excretion that synchronizing the enforced displacement, Ikram Center has documented new stages of the demographic change scheme that is being implemented in Iraq for interest of Iran since **2003**, Ikram Center monitored an escalation of sectarian cleansing campaigns in many regions of Iraq, especially in the areas of the Baghdad belt and the governorates of Diyala, Salah al-Din, Anbar and Babil, in new stages of the scheme of demographic change that has been implemented in Iraq since **2003**, with the government proceeding to take "fighting terrorism" as a pretext for its implementation, and we affirm Here, the evictions of the people of the targeted areas were carried out by the government forces that are permanently present in those areas, after telling the people that they were unable to protect them in conjunction with the attacks by the pro-Iran militias on their areas.

For examples, since last August, Tarmiyah, northern Baghdad, is subjected to serious human rights violations, as a federal police force backed by members of the Al-Nujaba militia arbitrarily arrested and tortured more than **250** civilians.

As for Diyala governorate, About **500** families from the residents of a number of villages surrounding Muqdadiya district, northern the governorate, have been displaced, leaving their homes in search of safer areas in the governorate, at least **330** of these displaced families still living in miserable conditions. The villages northern Diyala have been subject to organized displacement campaigns since **2014**, most of the villages have been emptied of their residents, in addition to security chases, killings and enforced disappearances of the residents of those villages. While the pro-Iran militias continued to



commit violations against the people of these villages as in Karim Al-Daoud, Al-Zawra in Khanaqin district, and Hawi Al-Adhaim area (al-Waqf) in Al-Abara sub-district in Diyala, where villages and orchards were subjected to incursions and raids carried out by government forces coming from Baghdad, in a series of the arbitrary measures practiced by the authorities and militias in the governorate since the beginning of 2021.

Furthermore, one of the results of the governments' dedication to the environment that repels citizens, which paints a tragic scene for thousands of Iraqi immigrants escaping from poverty and the lives of misery they live under the false freedom and democracy that the occupation brought and adopted by its successive governments, about 600 citizens migrated unlawfully on daily basis during 2021, they remained as refugees stuck on both sides of the borders in harsh humanitarian and climatic conditions, especially between the two countries Belarus and Poland, hoping that they would find a better life outside their country.

Here we indicate our strong dissatisfaction with the crude handling of the refugee file by the concerned countries and their denial of the basic rights of refugees, The extent of the abuse and humiliation that the refugees have been subjected to on both sides of the borders of those countries, and the countries exploitation of this crisis for their interests, with the international community leaving this chronic human tragedy without a radical solution that guarantees the persecuted protection and a decent life in their homelands.

5. Situation of Women and Children (Article 3 and 24)

With regard to the situation of women and children, Iraq is still one of the worst countries for women and children, with a noticeable decline in the rights of these two groups, with their continued exposure to killing, kidnapping, exploitation, human trafficking, illegal labor, imprisonment and deprivation of the most basic rights.



The UN reports warned of the growing phenomenon of human trafficking in Iraq, and placed Iraq on the second level of monitoring for the fourth year in a row, according to the report of the US State Department, which promised to hold Iraqi officials involved in human trafficking accountable and prosecute, but none of those involved in these crimes has been held accountable to date. release of this report.

Some data about women and children in Iraq 2021:

- 4 millions widows in Iraq.
- Exacerbation of the phenomenon of child labor.
- Organized crimes against women and children.
- Most of the victims of remnants of war and landmines are women and children.
- 25% of women do not know how to read and write.
- 40% of children live below the poverty line.
- 50% of those of school age are deprived of the right to education.
- 70% of victims of human trafficking crimes are women and children.
- 80% of children are still suffering continued violence.

6. Public Liberties, Press Freedoms and Popular Demonstration (Article 19 and 21)

With regard to the axis of public and press freedoms and popular demonstrations, The continued suppression of peaceful demonstrations and the restriction of independent journalistic work by official bodies, influential parties and their militias is prevalent, with 268 violations against journalists in Iraq monitored and documented, and 152 demonstrators were killed or wounded during 2021, which explains Iraq's third place in the world in terms of journalist murders.

- Iraq ranks third in the world in terms of journalist murders.
- Monitoring and documenting 268 violations against journalists in Iraq during 2021.
- The arrest and disappearance of 11 journalists, including the journalist (Zaman Al-Fatlawi).



- Continuing attacks on the correspondents of the satellite channels that follow the demonstrations.
- 152 protesters were killed or injured during 2021.
- The killers of the demonstrators had not been revealed until the release of this report.
- The Dhi Qar Operations Commander (Jamil Al-Shammari) was acquitted of the massacre of the Olive Bridge in the center of Nasiriyah in December 2019, in which at least 50 protesters were martyred and 500 others were wounded.

7. Chronic Impunity

Another year goes by and the killers of peaceful protesters and civilian activists are still free in Iraq. The number of victims range from 560, according to what the Baghdad government announced last year. This contradicts the statistics of human rights organizations that confirm the assassination of 800 martyrs during the suppression of peaceful demonstrations by lethal force in Iraq.

The government is content with talking about following up on the killing files, while continuing to question the numbers of the dead as it continues to shuffle the papers to gain time by forming investigation committees without revealing the names of the perpetrators under pressure from political parties and their terrorist militias.

Among the scenes of popular anger in protest against the government's slow measures in negatively identifying the parties responsible for the killing and assassination of demonstrators and activists in Iraq, Iraqi activists launched a popular campaign under the title (Who Killed Me?) demanding that the killers of Iraqi protesters and activists be exposed and held accountable. The campaign included calls through banners hung in many cities and governorates with pictures of activists who were victims of assassination operations, including the image of Ihab al-Wazani, who was assassinated in an armed attack in Karbala.



Among the thousands of examples of official impunity in Iraq is the release of the leader of the Popular Mobilization Forces, Qassem Musleh, days after his arrest in accordance with Article 4 of antiterrorism law. The response of the current head of the Judicial Council to criticism of the judiciary after it released Musleh, because it is subject to the wishes of influential political parties, he said: The judiciary did not succumb to any pressure from the armed factions and influential parties.

There is no doubt that the pro-Iran militias are shedding a lot of Iraqi blood and are the prime suspect in the murders of protesters and activists opposing the successive governments in Baghdad.

The exacerbation of the phenomenon of impunity in Iraq necessitated the launch of an Iraqi campaign inside and outside Iraq to end the chronic impunity of officials, which was addressed by a group of talented Iraqi academics abroad as independent individuals.

In light of the continuing state of doubt in the judicial procedures regarding the assassination of researcher Hisham al-Hashemi, in addition to holding the killers of the demonstrators accountable, the head of the Judicial Council in Iraq, Faiq Zaidan said that the judiciary issued arrest warrants for those accused of killing Hisham al-Hashemi, but he did not provide further details. Regarding the case of the leader of the crowd, Qassem Musleh, who was released days after his arrest under the anti-terrorism law, Zaidan only responded to the accusations against the judiciary and related to his subordination to armed factions and influential groups, and said that the judiciary did not succumb to any pressure in the case of Musleh.

8. Torture in Detentions (Article 7 and 10)

Despite Iraq's ratification of the International Convention against Torture in 2011, and the enactment of laws criminalizing torture, however, the concerned authorities ignore complaints and signs of torture and tolerate the perpetrators of these violations, which



makes torture a general and chronic condition in government prisons, security centers and detention places affiliated with influential parties in Iraq.

In conjunction with the failure of the relevant authorities to respect the legal procedures established to place the interrogations within twenty- four hours of the initial arrest. And their failure to apply procedural safeguards to prevent torture. And it refused the accused's access to a lawyer until the security forces completed the interrogation with him.

Among the most prominent methods of torture that were monitored were beatings with metal pipes, shocks with exposed electric wires, tying hands with iron chains and hanging from the ceiling.

Among the repercussions of the widespread torture and grave violations practiced against detainees in prisons, Ikram Center monitored an increase in the number of deaths of detainees under or because of torture which have been doubled compared to the year 2020, the largest number of the slain in Nasiriyah Central Prison, among them detainees who have completed their sentences and are awaiting release, were liquidated inside the prison before their release, also, prompted calls to internationalize the issue of torture in Iraqi prisons.

The main reasons why torture continues on a large scale:

- Failure to respect the legal procedures for placing interrogations.
- Failure to apply procedural safeguards to prevent torture.
- Not allowing the accused access to a lawyer prior to interrogation.
- Torture complaints handling systems are unfair and ineffective.
- The spread of secret prisons and unofficial detentions.
- Ignore complaints of torture and tolerate the perpetrators.



Despite the overwhelming and consistent evidence of widespread and systematic occurrence of torture in all declared government prisons, the current Ministry of Justice still denies the existence of cases of torture inside its prisons.

In addition, the government in Baghdad does not change course and still not put effective mechanisms to investigate abuses by Pro-Iran militias and government forces and hold accountable those responsible.

Ikram Center also accused the government forces of serious human rights violations, presenting evidence of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, and deaths in custody of Sunni men held under the anti-terrorism law.

The big question remains: When will the torture file in Iraq be opened? Opening the file of torture in Iraq requires providing extensive information quickly about people who are being detained or enforcedly disappeared, the charges against them or their release must be announced immediately, and if they died under or because of torture, full details of the circumstances of their death should be provided to their families; their bodies should be returned to their families.

9. Conclusion

This report includes many cases that confirm the fact that the security chaos and widespread violations continue in Iraq, while emphasizing the exacerbation of the phenomenon of chronic impunity for perpetrators with international complicity.

Finally, this report is directed primarily at the Human Rights Committee and world public opinion, to put an end to the growing phenomenon of chronic impunity in Iraq and the condoning of international powers by the crimes and corruption of successive governments in Iraq over the past eighteen years of the continuous occupation of the country.