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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Iraq*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.[1] It is a summary of 61 stakeholders' submissions[2] for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[3] and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. UPR BCU recommended Iraq to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[4]

3. UPR BCU recommended that, whilst Iraq retained the death penalty, ensure that it complied with the 'most serious crimes' principle under Article 6 ICCPR, restricting punishment to crimes of intentional killing only. [5]

4. WHR recommended Iraq to ratify the optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).[6]

5. JS1, JS3 and HRW recommended Iraq to ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (CAT).[7]

6. MAAT and JS3 called on Iraq to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the International Labor Organization conventions which it had not yet joined.[8] [9]

7. ICAN urged Iraq to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.[10]

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8. JS3, HRW and JS6 recommended ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.[11] JS3 called Iraq to join the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statute to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity to effectively investigate and document all crimes committed against ethnic and religious minorities, prosecute those responsible, and achieve justice.[12]

9. JS1 and HRW recommended Iraq to respond in a timely manner to the Special Procedures' communications.[13]

B. National human rights framework

10. JS3 recommended renewing the National Action Plan for Human Rights (2021–2025) in Baghdad and Erbil; and taking concrete measures to ensure that the Board of Commissioners of the High Commission for Human Rights was in compliance with the Paris Principles.[14]

11. ROPD recommended Iraq to strengthen the national human rights institutions that can independently monitor and report on the state of human rights, including peaceful assembly, information access, media freedom, and expression.[15]

12. SOMD urged Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to implement anti-corruption strategies.[16]

13. UPR BCU recommended Iraq to develop, in consultation with civil society and relevant regional bodies, a comprehensive action plan to work towards an official moratorium, with a view to abolition, within the next four years.[17]

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

14. JS1 recommended Iraq to reform the penal code to bring it in compliance with the ICCPR; ensure that any media regulation was in compliance with the ICCPR; and reject the draft law of freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful protest in its entirety.[18]

15. JS5 and JS1 recommended Iraq to repeal the anti LGBTQI+ law.[19]

16. JS5 recommended Iraq to enact legislation that explicitly protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and ensure equal protection under the law.[20]

17. MENA Rights recommended Iraq to repeal Federal Iraq's Anti-Terrorism Law No.13 of 2005 and the KRG's Law No. 3 of 2006 on Combating Terrorism or bring them into line with international standards.[21]

18. JS10 noted that, on 1 March 2021, the government passed the Yazidi [Female] Survivors Law (YSL), a pivotal step in Iraq's efforts to address the legacy of ISIL crimes. The law provides access to a variety of rights and benefits to Yazidi, Turkmen, Christian, and Shabak women and girls victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), including victims of kidnapping, sexual enslavement, forced marriage, pregnancy, and abortion.[22]

19. HRW recommended Iraq to fully and equitably implement the Yazidi Survivors' Law No. 8 of 2021 and all of its provisions.[23]

20. H.R.F. recommended Iraq to amend the 1969 Penal Code to ensure that it fully adheres to Iraq's commitments to international human rights instruments it has signed or ratified.[24]

21. JS2 recommended that Iraq amend the Penal Code to limit the death penalty to offenses entailing an intentional killing committed by the accused person.[25]

22. JS3 recommended the Council of Representatives to legislate the "Protection of Minority Rights" law based on Constitutional Article 125, in order to guarantee the recognition of minorities that are not recognized constitutionally or in any other law.[26]

23. JS9 called on Iraq to enact national laws on "Protection of Human Rights Defenders", "Anti-Torture", and " the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" and establish relevant national institutions for victims.[27]

24. JS9 further recommended amending the Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 to ensure respect and promotion of human rights and amend the Inmates and Depositors Reform Law No. 18 of 2018 to allow organisations to visit prisons and detention centres.[28]

25. JS2 and ADF recommended Iraq to revise legal provisions in order to ensure it does not penalize peaceful expression of opinions, including criticism of religious beliefs and practices.[29] [30]

26. FLD recommended the government to ensure that national legislation is in line with international human rights standards and obligations and amend laws to bring them into compliance as necessary.[31]

27. JSC called on the government to repeal criminal defamation provisions in the Penal Code and replace them with civil defamation penalties; and to amend laws and Penal Code provisions that restrict freedom of expression to align with international human rights standards.[32]

28. JSC urged Iraq to enact specific legislation criminalizing hate speech and incitement in the media, ensuring it is not used to restrict legitimate freedom of expression.[33]

29. Anglican Communion urged Iraq to revise legislation to guarantee that all religions are recognised and respected under Iraqi law and allow citizens the right to choose their beliefs, allowing for Muslims to become Christians or choose other religions.[34]

30. Anglican Communion recommended that government records pertaining to individuals cease to reference religious background, strengthening the sense of the individual as a citizen and reducing the focus on groups to which they belong.[35]

31. SOMD recommended Iraq to harmonize laws combating corruption with international standards, particularly the UN Convention against Corruption.[36]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

32. JS4 advised Iraq to establish an independent ombudsman or review board to handle complaints from NGOs regarding arbitrary interference or unjust decisions by the DNGO or the KRG's Department of NGOs, and any governmental or security institutions. This body should have the authority to investigate complaints and recommend corrective actions.[37]

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

33. JS8 recommended Iraq to ensure that any laws that are discriminatory against the Yazidis and other religious or ethnic minority communities are repealed.[38]

34. Asfoor urged the government to restore and compensate the rights of the Jews of Iraq.[39]

35. Asfoor also urged the government to expand the base of the endowment and register followers of other religions, such as Zoroastrianism with the enactment of laws and taking measures that guarantee religious freedoms and preserve their dignity.[40]

36. CSW urged the government to amend the constitution to ensure that all Iraqis enjoy equal rights regardless of their religion or belief by removing stipulations mandating Islam as a source of legislation.[41]

37. CSW called on Iraq to repeal all laws that restrict freedom of religion or belief, including those prohibiting the Baha'i faith.[42]

38. ADF recommended Iraq to guarantee full respect for the right to freedom of religion or belief, both in law and practice, without discrimination.[43]

39. ADF called on the government to ensure the effective protection of persons belonging to religious minorities from all forms of violence and harassment, including by investigating and prosecuting acts of violence and other human rights violations directed against them.[44]

40. ECLJ urged Iraq to reform its laws to ensure that no one is arrested because of his or her religion or is forced to adopt another faith.[45]

41. WHR recommended the government to eliminate systemic and structural discrimination related to gender equality in Iraqi laws.[46]

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

42. JS1 called on Iraq to cease the legal harassment and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, journalists, and other media workers; bring the perpetrators of gender-based violence to justice; and ensure that political leaders, officials and/or authorities condemn and refrain from committing attacks on women activists and journalists.[47]

43. JS2 recommended Iraq to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty; publish comprehensive disaggregated data on all people sentenced to death; ensure that no person is subject to a mandatory death penalty and commute the sentences of all persons sentenced to death pursuant to a mandatory scheme; and fully implement the death penalty recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur on executions.[48]

44. ECPM and HRW recommended Iraq to immediately establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty.[49] [50]

45. ECPM further recommended to commute the sentences of all death row inmates who have been charged with non-lethal offences.[51]

46. JS7 recommended Iraq to immediately and unconditionally release all HRDs, including journalists and bloggers detained for exercising their fundamental rights to the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, and review their cases to prevent further harassment.[52]

47. AOHR urged Iraq to secure full parliamentary and judicial oversight of all detention centers and hold those involved in crimes of torture, ill-treatment and illegal detention accountable.[53]

48. MAAT recommended accelerating the adoption of a comprehensive law to combat domestic or family violence.[54]

49. Bamro recommended Iraq to strengthen the legal framework to criminalize enforced disappearance in line with international standards.[55]

50. Bamro urged Iraq to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and judicial bodies to investigate and prosecute cases of enforced disappearance; establish a national database for missing persons to facilitate information sharing and coordination among relevant agencies and provide adequate support and protection to victims' families and witnesses.[56]

51. ECLJ asked that Iraq work to protect Christians in northern Iraq from the ongoing conflict and work to ensure that Christians were able to return safely to their homes.[57]

52. H.R.F. urged the government to halt all forms of torture, including in prisons, investigate allegations with expedited urgency, and uphold accountability.[58]

International humanitarian law

53. JS3 recommended adopting policies in relation to transitional justice and finding international or governmental alternatives to continue examining the atrocities and crimes committed by ISIL hold those responsible to account.[59]

54. JS9 advised Iraq to remove armed groups from post-conflict areas and transfer control to security forces, facilitate the return of displaced victims, and investigate allegations of secret prisons and mass graves.[60]

55. JS6 recommended Iraq to produce a map of mass graves in Iraq, in partnership with civil society.[61]

56. JS6 also called to establish mechanisms for the care and psycho-social rehabilitation of victims, particularly women; and create an independent truth commission to investigate all cases of enforced disappearances.[62]

57. JS10 recommended Iraq to incorporate genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes into national law, establishing a survivor-friendly criminal accountability mechanism consistent with international standards of human rights, with jurisdiction over international crimes committed by ISIL in Iraq or outside of Iraq against Iraqi nationals or non-Iraq nationals residing in Iraq.[63]

58. HRCIraq recommended Iraq to speed up opening and excavating mass graves in Turkmen areas of Iraq.[64]

59. HRCIraq urged Iraq to conduct independent and effective investigations to determine the fate of approximately 1,300 missing Turkmen in the Tal Afar district, including 450 women, 170 children, and 680 people from Nineveh Governorate; hold perpetrators accountable and provide justice for the victims' families.[65]

60. HRW recommended Iraq to designate an accountable agency and create a secure information management system for the storage of confidential information and evidence received from the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD).[66]

Human rights and counter-terrorism

61. JS8 observed that prosecutions of ISIL fighters were based on the Iraqi anti-terrorism legal framework, which provided an overly broad and vague definition of terrorism and related offences, focused on ‘association’ with or ‘membership’ in a terrorist organisation, without sufficiently distinguishing between those who participated in violence and those who joined Daesh for survival and/or through coercion.[67]

62. Furthermore, JS8 noted that, under the Iraqi anti-terrorism laws, the death penalty was mandatory for a wide range of acts that did not meet the ‘most serious crimes’ threshold.[68]

63. JS8 recommended Iraq to halt trials for terror-related offences which do not follow due process.[69]

64. MENA Rights recommended Iraq to ensure that no arbitrary arrest and detention or enforced disappearance was carried out in the context of counter-terrorism operations; and to undertake prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all violations committed in the context of counter-terrorism operations.[70]

65. CSOrg recommended Iraq to demilitarize the police and security forces to reduce the likelihood of torture and abuse; disband or integrate militias into formal security structures under strict civilian oversight to prevent unauthorized detention and torture; and implement stringent recruitment and vetting processes to ensure that security personnel have no history of human rights abuses.[71]

66. M.O.H.R. recommended Iraq to expedite the process of repatriating female inmates reportedly associated with ISIL to their respective countries and ensure proper follow-up on reuniting accompanying children with their families in their home countries.[72]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

67. JS2 recommended Iraq to ensure that any person charged with a capital offense has a fair trial, including observers from local or international humanitarian organizations, and a lawyer with capital experience who is present at the time of the investigation through and including any appellate proceedings.[73]

68. JS6 called on Iraq to create a central file of enforced disappearances in Iraq and list the information collected in a database to serve as a basis for a future commission.[74]

69. JS9 recommended Iraq to end impunity, ensure thorough investigations, and provide equitable redress for all victims of human rights violations; and consult and involve victims and civil society organisations in all matters concerning the victims, and protect victims' families and witnesses.[75]

70. JS11 recommended entrusting the management of institutions housing prisoners (convicted and detained) exclusively to the authority and command of the Ministry of Justice in both the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional governments.[76]

71. JS11 recommended Iraq to construct modern prisons that meet international standards and promptly adopt an alternative punishment law to alleviate the current overcrowding.[77]

72. FLD recommended ensuring all perpetrators of violence against HRDs are held accountable, and ensure the relevant judicial mechanisms remain impartial and uphold the rule of law.[78]

73. JSC called on Iraq to direct all security forces in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region to cease any intimidation, harassment, arrest, or assault of journalists and others exercising their right to freedom of expression.[79]

74. 112233 recommended Iraq to establish an independent mechanism to monitor violations by security forces; and to establish reporting mechanisms on human rights violations without fear of retaliation.[80]

75. 112233 recommended Iraq to provide resources to equip the security forces with the latest technologies to protect demonstrators and avoid resorting to excessive force and violence against demonstrators.[81]

76. CSOrg recommended Iraq to ensure the judiciary was independent and free from political influence; to review and revise judicial procedures to prevent the use of coerced confessions in trials; and to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to handle cases of torture and other human rights violations effectively.[82]

77. DHRD recommended Iraq to guarantee that all suspects and accused benefitted fully from the presumption of innocence without discrimination and a that the burden of proving criminal offenses lied solely with the prosecuting authority throughout legal proceedings.[83]

78. DHRD urged the authorities to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty should have the right to inform a chosen individual of their detention and location, and to facilitate family visits.[84]

79. SOMD recommended Iraq to establish mechanisms to protect whistleblowers exposing corruption.[85]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

80. JS7 recommended Iraq to take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by protecting civil society from threats, harassment and gross human rights violations, and ensuring accountability.[86]

81. JS1 recommended Iraq to immediately cease using excessive force against peaceful demonstrators, and ensure that any freedom of assembly legislation is in compliance with the ICCPR.[87]

82. JS12 recommended Iraq to allow all its citizens, regardless of their current religion, the freedom to convert to any religion of their choice or to adopt no religion at all; and establish a legal framework that respects the religious upbringing and identity of children, taking into account the rights and beliefs of both parents and the child's best interests.[88]

83. JS12 recommended including the Jewish community as a legally recognized faith group, ensuring they have equal rights and protections under the law and reinstate the issuance of identification cards to Bahá'í citizens without discrimination.[89]

84. METRO Center recommended Iraq to release imprisoned journalists; and ensure that government employees regulate their interactions with the media in accordance with the Journalism Law and the Right to Information Law.[90]

85. METRO Center further recommended that cases involving media should be handled exclusively by the police, with summonses issued only by judicial order. [91]

86. JS7 advised Iraq to end the blacklisting of Civil Society Organisations by the NGO Directorate and remove all restrictions placed on the work of civil society that are inconsistent with the right to freedom of association.[92]

87. JS4 recommended Iraq to eliminate all unnecessary restrictions on CSOs' ability to form, gain legal recognition, operate, and receive domestic and international funding, aligning with best practices as outlined by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association.[93]

88. JS4 further recommended eliminating requirements for annual validation to operate in Iraq, and annual renewal of authorization to operate in areas controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government.[94]

89. JS14 called on Iraq to hold accountable officials alleged to have violated the rights of peaceful protestors and individuals in connection to peaceful protests.[95]

90. FLD recommended to cease the criminalization of HRDs, including HRD journalists, for their peaceful campaigns for justice and reform and ensure the right to peacefully assemble and protest.[96]

91. ROPD urged Iraq to strengthen protections for journalists, including legal protections, and ensure prompt investigations and prosecutions of crimes against media personnel.[97]

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

92. JS16 recommended Iraq to enact and enforce robust labor laws and policies that safeguard the rights of refugee workers, cover aspects such as minimum wages, acceptable working hours, regulations for resignation and annual leave, and protection against workplace discrimination.[98]

93. JS16 also recommended Iraq to strengthen oversight and implementation of labor laws; increase government supervision of workplaces to ensure that employers comply with both local and international laws and policies; and establish effective mechanisms for monitoring, penalizing violators, and facilitating worker complaints and reports need to be put in place.[99]

94. PODA recommended Iraq to implement emergency economic relief packages to support families struggling with high living costs, including subsidies for essential goods, rent assistance, and increased access to affordable healthcare.[100]

95. PODA also recommended the government to develop and promote job creation programs, particularly in sectors.[101]

Right to an adequate standard of living

96. Dabin recommended Iraq to ensure fair and timely payment of wages; review and adjust minimum wage levels regularly to reflect the cost of living; and enforce occupational health and safety standards, and provide regular training on safety practices.[102]

97. Dabin also recommended promoting policies that support work-life balance, such as flexible working hours and parental leave.[103]

Right to health

98. JS15 recommended addressing cases of stillbirths, mutilation, infant mortality and low age rates by health institutions and develop appropriate solutions for them.[104]

99. HRCIraq urged to expand work in the field of mental health in the Iraqi Ministry of Health and related institutions to care for the families of the missing in the psychological aspect and compensate them for the physical and psychological pain they feel.[105]

100. PODA urged Iraq to increase access to mental health services by providing free or subsidized counselling and support for individuals and families experiencing stress.[106]

101. CFam recommended Iraq to continue to improve maternal and child health outcomes, including by ensuring adequate nutrition for pregnant women and affordable maternal health care, as well as improving access to hygiene, sanitation, and adequate nutrition, particularly

for pregnant women and mothers, with special attention to those in rural and remote areas and for those in low-resource settings.[107]

102. HUMAN Network recommended Iraq to fulfil the right to health as stipulated in the 2005 constitution, ensuring access to healthcare for every Iraqi regardless of gender, ethnicity, or ability to pay; and implement taxation on sugar, tobacco, and alcohol to fund healthcare services.[108]

103. HUMAN Network further recommended adopting a 'Health in All Policies' framework and introducing a Basic Health Services Package at primary healthcare levels.[109]

Right to education

104. JS11 recommended Iraq to build schools in all prisons and correctional facilities and expand education beyond the primary and basic stages; require all convicts to engage in the educational process and develop age-appropriate curricula that correspond to the length of their sentences; and ensure that all children in prisons, including those accompanying their parents and those born in prison, have access to education.[110]

105. JS15 recommended Iraq to introduce a new curriculum at all levels of education that promote respect for human rights in general and children's rights and emphasize a modern approach to human rights concepts.[111]

106. JS15 urged Iraq to provide model buildings as schools and appropriate to their numbers, to provide sophisticated means of education, to reintroduce the school feeding system, especially in rural areas, to provide them with adequate cash allowance and recreational places as a friendly environment.[112]

107. Broken Chalk recommended an intensive reform of the Iraqi educational curriculum, including updating the outdated curriculum and addressing the lack of teacher training.[113]

108. Broken Chalk recommended Iraq to increase the public spending budget on the educational sector from 3.3% to 4.7–6% and allocating 13% of public expenditure to education, in order to allow the Iraqi government to implement several crucial changes.[114]

109. KDR called on Iraq to focus on the education sector and the development of public culture and underlined concerns that educational institutions have become places for the spread of drugs and trafficking.[115]

110. KDR further recommended prioritizing attention to universities in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.[116]

Cultural rights

111. RASHID called on Iraq to consider co-sponsoring, together with other source countries, new UN resolutions concerning the illicit trade of antiquities.[117]

112. RASHID recommended Iraq to demand full restitution of profits – *id est* disgorgement of profits - derived from the exploitation of stolen cultural goods, including all profits derived from the commercialization of what was covered by intellectual property rights.[118]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

113. HOEP recommended Iraq to formulate a clear, actionable climate change strategy, which should include specific goals, timelines, and responsibilities for mitigating the impacts of climate change. It should focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing water management systems.[119]

114. HOEP urged Iraq to prioritize the development and implementation of climate action projects across the country. Starting with the most affected areas, these projects should include initiatives such as reforestation, renewable energy deployment, and infrastructure improvements to enhance resilience to climate change.[120]

115. NGONCCC called on the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to fully commit to all articles of the Paris Agreement and implement effective

measures and policies to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on human rights in Iraq, providing sufficient funding for activities, programs.[121]

116. NGONCCC recommended Iraq to prepare and adopt a national policy to protect the environment and adapt to climate change; activate and create mechanisms for citizen participation in efforts to address the effects of climate change; and take all necessary measures to help limit the rise in temperatures in Iraq by at least one and a half degrees Celsius.[122]

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

117. JS12 recommended Iraq to establish a mechanism to systematically gather and track data on violence against women and girls to assess and monitor changes.[123]

118. JS12 called on Iraq to reform the national ID card issuance process to eliminate the requirement for male guardian approval, ensuring that women can independently obtain their IDs.[124]

119. JS13 called on Iraq to make sure that the services provided by the government, including hotlines and awareness campaigns, were accessible to women in rural areas, where awareness of and support against domestic violence might be more critically needed; and increase the funding for combatting and preventing violence.[125]

120. AOO recommended Iraq to enact protection mechanisms for abused women to provide effective, standardized rehabilitation and protection. These should include psychological, social, and legal support, requiring the recruitment and training of psychosocial specialists, psychiatrists, and family relations experts.[126]

121. AOO noted that abused women's shelters remained inadequate, hosting all types of women and burdening service delivery; and recommended establishing special centers to accommodate cases based on their specific needs, violence levels, and required support.[127]

122. Ballot Org urged Iraq to improve quota systems and ensure a minimum percentage of women in political parties, parliament, and local councils; and to develop and provide training programs for women on political leadership, campaigning, public speaking, and policy-making.[128]

123. Ballot Org recommended Iraq to implement measures to protect women from harassment, violence, and intimidation in political environments; and to ensure there were accessible legal channels for women to report and address instances of discrimination or violence related to their political participation.[129]

124. HUMAN Network recommended Iraq to eradicate FGM and integrate abortion services into the essential health services package at primary healthcare centers.[130]

125. HRW recommended Iraq to fully criminalize marital rape in all circumstances, including for registered and unregistered marriages and repeal article 41(1) of the Iraqi Penal Code which gives a husband a legal right to “punish” his wife, and parents to use corporal punishment to discipline their children.[131]

126. WOLA commended the laws aimed at protecting women’s rights. However, WOLA noted that there continued to be gender discrimination and a shortage in the protection of women’s rights in terms of implementation.[132]

Children

127. AOHR urged Iraq to provide documents for 3,523 Iraqi children in Al-Hawl camp in northeast Syria, among tens of thousands of families of ISIL fighters, which posed a huge challenge and risks to the future of innocent children.[133]

128. MAAT called on Iraq to prohibit disciplinary violence against children in all its forms in schools, homes, and any other place.[134]

129. ECP noted that in Iraq corporal punishment of children remained lawful.[135]

130. ECP stated that the legality and practice of corporal punishment of children violated their fundamental human rights to respect for human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law.[136]

Indigenous Peoples and minorities

131. JS3 called on the government to activate legislation and strengthen measures and procedures aimed at protecting, restoring, and rehabilitating the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of minorities.[137]

132. JS3 advised the Ministry of Education, in close consultation with representatives of various Iraqi ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, to adopt a comprehensive program to amend school curricula reflecting Iraqi diversity by incorporating the historical and present roles of these minorities;[138] and establish the right to education in minority languages into policies, measures, and practical procedures.[139]

133. JS10 recommended Iraq to increase efforts to overcome the barriers impeding survivors outside Iraq from accessing their rightful reparations under the Yazidi Survivor's Law (YSL), including making video conferencing available to satisfy the YSL's evidentiary requirements.[140]

134. WHR recommended Iraq to return the ethnic minorities which have been displaced from their lands as soon as possible, in addition to the speedy issuance of a bill to protect ethnic and religious minorities.[141]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

135. JS5 recommended Iraq to establish independent mechanisms to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, including government officials, security forces, and armed groups.[142]

136. JS5 recommended Iraq to provide training for law enforcement and judicial officials on LGBT+ rights and collaborate with civil society organizations to develop and implement policies that promote the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals.[143]

137. JS14 recommended Iraq to amend the Penal Code and laws on national security, LGBTQ+, publications, and preventing internet misuse, so as to comply with international human rights standards, and cease applying them to peaceful acts of free speech, association and assembly.[144]

138. AI recommended Iraq to decriminalize same-sex relations by repealing the Anti-Prostitution Law and to initiate prompt, impartial and effective investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, including killings, abductions, torture and sexual violence against LGBT people and prosecute suspected perpetrators in fair trials adhering to international standards without recourse to the death penalty.[145]

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

139. TLHR recommended the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to legislate to protect the rights of foreign workers and regulate it in Iraq; and to adhere to the controls of occupational safety for foreign? workers and conclude written contracts to guarantee their rights as stipulated in the applicable laws.[146]

140. TLHR recommended the authorities to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law against migrants in order to prevent and combat discrimination in all areas of life, and to include in this law, and in the labor law as well, a definition of direct and indirect discrimination based on all prohibited grounds, in accordance with Article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Iraq for local and foreign workers.[147]

141. MRAP called on Iraq to protect refugees and displaced persons on its soil, regardless of their official status.[148] MRAP further recommended taking appropriate measures to promote access to education and health care to refugees and internally displaced persons.[149]

Internally displaced persons

142. MAAT recommended Iraq to adopt dedicated programmes to address the issue of internally displaced persons and ensure the provision of safe spaces for their return to their communities.[150]

3. Specific regions or territories

143. NODDHR called on the KRG to ensure that the executive, judicial and legislative branches shall comply with the Right to Information Act.[151]

144. NODDHR further recommended the KRGs to issue guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Right to Information Law and take advantage of the proposals of civil society organizations.[152]

145. AI recommended the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)s to end the assault on the right to freedom of expression, including press freedom, and end arbitrary detentions, beatings and grossly unfair trials of journalists and activists with a view to holding those responsible accountable.[153]

146. AI also recommended the KRG to drop all charges and release all individuals prosecuted and sentenced solely for exercising their right to free speech and immediately release all those imprisoned on those charges.[154]

147. Emma recommended the KRG to provide the necessary financial and human resources to implement national strategies and plans for women and include indicators to monitor the progress achieved for implementation.[155]

148. Emma urged the KRG to apply a quota system in the Kurdistan Region government, in which at least 30% of senior position and above should be for women.[156]

Notes

[1] A/HRC/43/14 and the addendum A/HRC/43/14/Add.1, and A/HRC/43/2.

[2] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

112233	منظمة كوردستان لمراقبة حقوق الانسان, Erbil (Iraq);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
Anglican Communion	Anglican Consultative Council, London United Kingdom);
AOHR-HQ	Arab Organization for Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
AOO	Accepting Others Organization, Erbil (Iraq);
Asfoor	Representation of Zoroastrian, Baghdad (Iraq);
Ballot Org	Ballot Organization for Election and Democracy, Slemani (Iraq);
BAMRO	Belgian Association Human Rights and Development, Aalst (Belgium);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CFam	Center for Family and Human Rights, New York (United States of America);
CSOrg	Civil Scoiety Organization, Sulaymaniyah (Iraq);
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide, New Malden (United Kingdom);
Dabin	Dabin Organization for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Sulamani (Iraq);
DHRD	Democracy and Human Rights Development Center, Sulaimanyah (Iraq);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
ECP	End Corporal Punishment, Geneva (Switzerland);
ECPM	Ensemble contre la peine de mort, Paris (France);
Emma Organization	Emma Organization for Human Development Erbil (Iraq);

FLD	Front Line Defenders - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Blackrock, Dublin (Ireland);
H.R.F	Human Rights Foundation, New York (United States of America);
HOEP	Hasar Organization Erbil (Iraq);
HRCiraq	Human Rights Center in Iraq, Kirkuk (Iraq);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
HUMAN Network	HUMAN Network for Health and Humanitarian Affairs Sulaymaniyah (Iraq);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapon, Geneva (Switzerland);
JSC	Journalist Support Committee, Beirut (Lebanon);
KDR	Kurdistan Dialog, Sulamnayih (Iraq);
M.O.H.R	Almonqith Organization for Human Rights, Baghdad (Iraq);
MAAT	Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
MENA Rights	MENA Rights Group, Chatelaine (Switzerland);
Metro Center	Metro Center For Journalists Rights & Advocacy, Sulaimanyah (Iraq);
MRAP	Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peoples, Paris (France);
N.O.D.D.H.R	Noor Organization for Democratic Development and Human Rights, Sulimanyah (Iraq);
NGONCCC	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION'S NETWORK FOR COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE (NGONCCC), Baghdad (Iraq);
PODA	Pabend Organization for Democratic Activity, Duhok (Iraq);
RASHID	Rashid International, Munich (Germany);
ROPD	Roshengeri organization for practicing democracy, Duhok,(Iraq);
RORD	Reporters for Organisation Rights and Development, Erbil (Iraq);
SOMD	STOP Organization for Monitoring and development, Erbil (Iraq);
TLHR	Trainers league of human right – TLHR, Erbil (Iraq);
UPR BCU	The UPR Project at BCU, Birmingham (United Kingdom);
WHR	Al Wattan Org for Human Rights, Baghdad (Iraq);
WOLA	Women Legal Assistance, Sulaimanyah (Iraq).

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** Access Now, Access Now, New York, (United States of America);
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by**: AHR, Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Alliance of Iraqi Minorities, Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network, Erbil (Iraq);
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Coalition FoA Iraq Coalition on Freedom of Association for UPR-Iraq, Oslo (Norway);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** DNE, IraQueer, Cambridge (United States of America);
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** FEMED, Fédération euro-méditerranéenne contre les disparitions forces, Montreuil (France);
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by:** GCHR UPR-Iraq, Gulf Centre for Human Rights Coalition of NGOs for UPR-Iraq, Dublin (Ireland);
JS8	**Joint submission 8 submitted by:** IBA, International Bar Association, London (United Kingdom);
JS9	**Joint submission 9 submitted by:** ISHR, International Service for Human Rights, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS10	**Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Jiyan Foundation,Jiyan

	Foundation for Human Rights, Erbil (Iraq);
JS11	**Joint submission 11 submitted by:** JNP, Justice Network for Prisoners, (Iraq);
JS12	Joint submission 12 submitted by: JUBILEE. JUBILEE CAMPAIGN, Fairfax, (United States of America);
JS13	**Joint submission 13 submitted by:** LWF, Lutheran World Federation, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS14	**Joint submission 14 submitted by:** MENA Rights, MENA Rights Group, Chatelaine (Switzerland);
JS15	**Joint submission 15 submitted by:** NOIFCR, Networks of Iraq for child rights, Erbil (Iraq);
JS16	**Joint submission 16 submitted by:** TAWTEEN, Iraq Network for Localization Humanitarian Action, Erbil (Iraq).

[3] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[4] UPR BCU, p.6.
[5] UPR BCU, p.6.
[6] WHR, p.6.
[7] JS1, para 8; HRW, p.2; JS3, para 4.
[8] MAAT, p. 8.
[9] JS3, para 4.
[10] ICAN, p.1.
[11] JS6, para 60; JS3, para 4; HRW, p.3.
[12] JS3, para 4.
[13] JS1, para 8.
[14] JS3, para 10, 11.
[15] ROPD, p.5.
[16] SOMD, p.9.
[17] UPR BCU, p.6.
[18] JS1, para 27.
[19] JS1, para 27; JS5 para 36.
[20] JS5, para 38.
[21] MENA Rights, p. 5.
[22] JS10, para 19.
[23] HRW, p.3.
[24] H.R.F., para 25.

[25] JS2, para 49.
[26] JS3 paras 30 and 31.
[27] JS9, para 11.
[28] JS9, para 11.
[29] JS12, para 24.
[30] ADF, p.8.
[31] FLD, p. 4.
[32] JSC, p. 6.
[33] JSC, p. 6.
[34] Anglican Communion, p.4.
[35] Anglican Communion, p.4.
[36] OMD, p.9.
[37] JS4, para 8.17.
[38] JS8, para 60.
[39] Asfoor, p.4.
[40] Asfoor, p.4.
[41] CSW, para 11.
[42] CSW, para 12.
[43] ADF, p.8.
[44] ADF, p.8.
[45] ECLJ, para 24.
[46] WHR, p.6.
[47] JS1, para 53.
[48] JS2, para 49.
[49] ECPM, p.1.
[50] HRW, p.2.
[51] ECPM, p.1.
[52] JS7, para 6.2.
[53] AOHR, p.3.
[54] MAAT, p. 8.
[55] BAMRO, p11.
[56] BAMRO, p11
[57] ECLJ, para 25.
[58] H.R.F., para 25.
[59] JS3, paras 43 and 44.
[60] JS9, para 11.
[61] JS6, para 60.
[62] JS6, para 60.
[63] JS10, para 47.
[64] HRCIraq, p.3.
[65] HRCIraq, p.3.
[66] HRW, p.3.
[67] JS8, para 20.
[68] JS8, para 21.
[69] JS8, para 60.
[70] MENA Rights, p. 5.
[71] CSOrg, p. 6.
[72] M.O.H.R., p.8
[73] JS2, para 49.
[74] JS6, para 60.
[75] JS9, para 11.
[76] JS11, p. 2.
[77] JS11, p. 3.
[78] FLD, p.4
[79] JSC, p. 6.
[80] 112233, p.4.
[81] 112233, p.4.
[82] CSOrg, p.6.
[83] DHRD, p.10.
[84] DHRD, p.10.
[85] SOMD, p.9.
[86] JS7, para 6.1.

87 JS1, para 44.
88 JS12, paras 28 and 29.
89 JS12, paras 33 and 31.
90 Metro Center, p.5.
91 Metro Center, p.5.
92 JS7, para 6.1.
93 JS4, para 8.1.
94 S4, para 8.2 and 8.3.
95 JS14, p.10.
96 FLD, p.4.
97 ROPD, p.4
98 JS16, p.2.
99 JS16, p.2.
100 PODA, p.3
101 PODA, p.3.
102 Dabin, p.6.
103 Dabin, p.6.
104 JS15, p.9.
105 HRCIraq, p3.
106 PODA, p.3.
107 CFam, para 20.
108 HUMAN Network, p.2.
109 HUMAN Network, p.3.
110 JS11, p. 6.
111 JS15, p.9.
112 JS15, p.9.
113 Broken Chalk, para 29.
114 Broken Chalk, para 29.
115 KDR, p.4.
116 KDR, p.4.
117 RASHID, para 12.
118 RASHID, para 20.
119 HOEP, 6.
120 HOEP, 6.
121 NGONCCC, para 28.
122 NGONCCC, para 28.
123 JS12, p.8.
124 JS12, p.9.
125 JS13, p.11.
126 AOO, p.7.
127 AOO, p.8.
128 Ballot Org, p.4.
129 Ballot Org, p.6.
130 HUMAN Network, p.3.
131 HRW, p.4.
132 WOLA, p.1.
133 AOHR, p.4.
134 MAAT, p, 8.
135 ECP, p.1.
136 ECP, p.1.
137 JS3, para 69.
138 JS3, para 61.
139 JS3, para 69.
140 JS10, para 28.
141 WHR, p.6.
142 JS5 para 38.
143 JS5, paras 39 and 40.
144 JS14, p.6.
145 AI, para 42 and 43.
146 TLHR, p.3.
147 TLHR, p.3.
148 MRAP, p.9.

[149] MRAP, p.9.
[150] MAAT, p, 8.
[151] NODDHR, p.6.
[152] NODDHR, p.6.
[153] AI, para 45.
[154] AI, para 46.
[155] Emma, p.2.
[156] Emma, p.5.