Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	**1628**
Land:	Irak
Kilde:	Freedom House
Titel:	Freedom in the World 2025 – Iraq
Udgivet:	2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	22. august 2025

STAY UP TO DATE: The Effects of the US Foreign Aid Freeze on Freedom House

Freedom House

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Iraq

NOT FREE

31 /100

Political Rights	16 /40
Civil Liberties	15 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

30 /100 **Not Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



Overview

Iraq holds regular, competitive elections, and the country's various partisan, religious, and ethnic groups generally enjoy representation in the political system. However, democratic governance is impeded in practice by corruption, militias operating outside the bounds of the law, and the weakness of formal institutions. Increasingly, Iran's regime has been able to influence politics in Baghdad. State officials and powerful militias routinely infringe on the rights of citizens through legal and extrajudicial means.

Key Developments in 2024

- After a two-year delay, legislative elections took place without major incident in the Kurdistan region in October. The two largest parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), won 39 and 23 seats, respectively, neither enough for a parliamentary majority.
- In August and September, Iraqi security forces clashed with medical school graduates in Baghdad protesting a lack of job opportunities, with dozens of injuries reported.
- In June, conservative politicians introduced amendments that would allow Iraqis to turn to religious courts on issues of family law. The move would effectively allow the marriage of children as young as nine years old, and weaken existing protections for women in cases of divorce. Thousands of Iraqi women gathered on several occasions to protest the proposed amendments. Separately, the parliament passed a law criminalizing same-sex relationships in April.
- The business environment continued to improve in Iraq's major cities, with the growth of new tourism operations and other private enterprises.
- Iranian-backed groups launched several drone attacks against bases housing US troops, and the United States launched a number of attacks against Iran-backed militia headquarters in Iraq. Amid domestic tensions over the American military presence, US and Iraqi officials reached an agreement in September on a US military withdrawal in 2026.
- In January, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced that it had fired ballistic missiles at what it claimed was an Israeli spy headquarters near Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. The Iraqi government and local Kurdish leaders denounced the strike, which Kurdish officials said killed four civilians.

This report has been abridged for Freedom in the World 2025 due to ongoing budget constraints. Freedom in the World is entirely funded by nongovernmental sources such as private foundations, corporations, and individuals like you. Please consider making a donation to support future editions of this vital resource.

For additional background information, see last year's full report.

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?	**2** / 4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?	**3** / 4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?	**3** / 4

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?	**3** / 4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?	**2** / 4

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?	**1** / 4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?	**1** / 4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?	**1** / 4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?	**0** / 4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?	**1** / 4

Add Q

Is the government or occupying power deliberately changing the ethnic composition of a country or territory so as to destroy a culture or tip the political balance in favor of another group?	**-1**

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?	**1** / 4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?	**1** / 4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?	**1** / 4

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?	**1** / 4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?	**1** / 4

E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights– and governance-related work?	**2** / 4

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?	**2** / 4

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?	**0** / 4

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?	**0** / 4

F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?	**1** / 4

F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?	**0** / 4

G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?	**1** / 4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?	**2** / 4

Score Change: The score improved from 1 to 2 because individuals have been able to open and operate private businesses in major cities more easily and with less harassment from nonstate actors.

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?	**1** / 4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?	**1** / 4



On Iraq

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

See More >

Country Facts

Population

44,500,000

Global Freedom Score

31/100 **Not Free**

Internet Freedom Score

40/100 **Partly Free**

Other Years

2024

Be the first to know what's happening.

Join the Freedom House weekly newsletter

Subscribe

ADDRESS

1850 M St. NW Floor 11
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-5101

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@freedomhouse.org

PRESS & MEDIA

press@freedomhouse.org

@2025 FreedomHouse