

(Translation)

UPR submission by

Human Rights Division

The Association of Muslims Scholars in Iraq (AMSI)

<http://www.iraq-amsi.org>

The Seventh Session of the Universal Periodic Review/

Iraq

Human Rights Council - United Nations- Geneva

September 2009

Executive Summary:

Our report deals with an essential part that was a major cause of retardation and regression in Baghdad in particular and Iraq in general. This essential part is the isolation of thinkers, intellectuals of different scientific majors, scientists, and religious men from different religions and sects in the Iraqi field through assassination, abduction, arrest, and exile in order to restrict their enlightening and educational role. As a result, the country will reach a status of retardation and intellectual backwardness. Thus, involved powers will easily pass their intentions and suspicious plans.

Although these operations started with the beginning of invasion in 2003, they became more apparent in the last few years. The current authority is responsible for these operations because: first, no plan was laid out to stop these operations or reveal committers. Second, no measures were taken to provide these harmed groups with protection. Third, no measures were taken to hold militias responsible, especially if participation in such operations is proved.

The report is divided into three main parts:

1) The Academics regardless of their scientific specialties. 2) Scientists and religious clerics from different religions and sects. 3) A general description of women state and status.

Attached to the report there is a list of available names of scientists, academicians, and religious clerics who were assassinated by the invasion or government troops or any other death-oriented forces.

In a brief summary of what the two groups- The qualified regardless of their scientific specialties, and Scientists and religious clerics from different religions and sects had faced, we can find the following:

Suffering of the Academics:

Scientists in Iraq are facing an ongoing bleeding since the date of invading Iraq till now. This bleeding made the country empty from thinkers and intellectuals who face

ascending wild assassinations and compulsory displacement through a well-planned scheme by regional and international powers which use local militias related to the government as a tool to force these scientists to leave the country by threatening them of death or abduction or harming them physiologically, financially, or physically. In many occasions, the killing or abduction is committed on the hands of individuals wearing police or military uniform in governmental vehicles, such in the case of abducting 150 employees and citizens from the scholarships directorate in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on November 14th, 2006, and the case of abducting the head of the Iraqi Olympic Committee (Ahmad Al-Hajeia) and dozens of employees from the committee building on July 16th, 2006 by a large squad wearing an official uniform in governmental vehicles.

In an analytical study and a field research made recently by our section on this group, the results shown by a large number of qualified people, who were forced to leave their country (their names are not declared upon their request), are the following:

Most of them are holders of rare scientific majors. They have previously cost the country a lot of money, effort, and time ¹and they are well known for their patriotism and sincerity at work:

- A) 90% of them were threatened directly.
- B) More than 50% faced abduction in person or for one of their family members by armed militias.
- C) 30% of them were arrested by the invasion or governmental forces.
- D) Most of those who were abducted or arrested faced physical and psychological torture.

The demands of abductors were usually the following:

- 1) Leaving the workplace immediately.
- 2) Leaving the country or going to north of Iraq (Kurdistan) within 3-30 days.
- 3) Paying a ransom between 50,000-100,000 US dollars.

20.000 Iraqi physicians left the country. This number represents one third of the total number of physicians in Iraq.

More than 5500 scientists, thinkers, academicians, scholars in the fields of atomics, physics and chemistry were killed, abducted, tortured, or arrested.

More than 160 physicians holding different specialties were killed, and according to reliable international reports, dozens of the national army officers and pilots were assassinated. The Government did nothing, no investigation, no any willing to protect them.

On the other hand, statistics on this matter indicate that 340 academicians and law men were killed on purpose during three years. The spokesman of the Ministry of Human Rights (Hamza Kamel) explains that: "the number of university lecturers who were killed between 2005 and 2006 is 224 lecturers" while "21 judges, 95 lawyers,

¹ As happened with Dr. Khalid Naseer Almyahi from Albasra University, who was the only specialized physician in nerves surgeon in the city. He was abducted on March 9th, 2008 before his corpse was thrown in one of the streets of Basra south of Iraq

and 197 journalists" were killed in the same period. Moreover, 2334 Iraqi women were killed in similar cases.

A scientific study stressed on the fact that violence against academicians in Iraq highly disabled academic freedom.

The study which was prepared by the institute of strategic studies in Iraq documented the assassination of 338 lecturers since April 2003 till the same month in 2008, in addition to the disappearance of 75 lecturers whose destiny is not known yet. Half of the assassinations took place, successively, in Baghdad, Albasra, Almosel, and Almustansria universities. 20% of the assassinated scientists hold PhDs, and one third of them are specialized in science and medicine.

Furthermore, the Zionism had a large part in the destruction and killing of Iraqis, especially the scientists. A report by the US department of state indicates that the Zionist intelligence body (MUSAD) was able, by help from US forces in Iraq, to kill 350 nuclear scientists, in addition to more than 300 academicians specialized in various scientific majors. Moreover, the US security body was responsible for providing lists of Iraqi Scientists who are to be killed, and the way to reach them. This operation is being implemented since a long time.²

However, the Iraqi authorities have not taken any measures to lay responsibility on the invasion troops for such assassinations, in addition to not taking any action to punish responsible militias. Thus, this assures the involvement of high governmental parties in this operation.

Assassination of religious men and individuals of other sects:

Regarding religious men, they suffered a lot from assassinations, and were arrested and displaced for various political and sectarian reasons. Moreover, the Sunnis were the greatest victim in these bloody operations, and the religious men were killed in their homes, mosques, and in the middle of the streets.

In Basra, for example, which was one of the most open, diverse, and civilized cities, attempts to spread violence, harshness, terrorism, ignorance, and compulsion have been practiced since the beginning of invasion till our present day. These attempts aimed at imposing a kind of sectarian fanaticism, immoderate ideologies, and social extremism. This has led to killing and displacing of thousands of Iraqi citizens.

The sectarian policies adopted by Iraqi governments since 2005 led to the aggravation of the situation. Moreover, the official bodies of the government committed a large number of crimes against the citizens of the city.

One of the most prominent characters who paid his life for his unified attitude towards all groups in Iraq is (Yousef Yacoub Alhassan), member of the secretariat-general of the body, the person in charge for its southern branch, and the Mufti of Basra city, who was assassinated on June 16th, 2006, while heading to prayer at Albasra great mosque, by one of the malicious sectarian militias. The person in charge for his assassination was a member of a (Alfhdila party) and committed the assassination by relying on the state of emergency which deprived citizens from the right to defend themselves, and made killing easier for such militias at any time and place. We have a list of the names of people involved in this assassination, but we feel that it is not suitable to mention their names in this report. It is

² US Department of State in a report submitted to president Bosh and published in media on August 6th, 2008

worth mentioning that (Alhassan) was known for his doctrine tolerance and his attempts to protect the city.

Furthermore, members of other sects such as Christians were not safe too. Their children were killed in different cities. Therefore, the government is directly responsible for such situation, either for the participation of its members or militias in these crimes, or for not taking efficient measures to stop these crimes. As a result, it is encouraging impunity from punishment.

Priest (Rghid Aziz Keni) was assassinated with three deacons near their church on Monday June, 2nd, 2007 on the hands of unknown gunmen in the center of Mosel city. The gunmen blocked their way and left them dead in front of the church.

Furthermore, on April 20th, 2009 gunmen, unknown as usual, attacked a jewelry store in Altobaji area east of Baghdad and killed three of the employees and four people in the market before robbing the store,

The three murdered employees were: 1- Haytham Hamid Albadri (50 years old), 2- Anas Hayham Hamid (24 years old), 3- Loui Asaad Hani (25 years old)

In addition, the wounded were: Assad Hani Abed and Firas Shaker.

Women:

Concerning women, they are the first victims of policies adopted by invasion troops and government authorities, especially since 2005. Moreover, procedures and legislations practiced by authorities degraded women through raids on houses, arresting women, and torturing them. Moreover, a large number of detained women were raped by prison guards or official employees. In the meanwhile, the authorities did not take any action to punish these criminals. Instead, it defended them and covered their ugly crimes.

Many reports issued by international organizations such as Amnesty International, Oxfam humanitarian Organization, Red Cross Organization, and the International Secretariat-general of Human Rights, stimulated concern regarding the situation of women in Iraq. In addition, these reports indicated that women in Iraq are facing death and hindrance due to blasts and violence in disturbed areas or due to abduction, rape, and killing, in addition to becoming widows or orphans. Moreover, wives are suffering from the detention and loss of their husbands, in addition to their declining status in camps of migrants and the displaced.³

Another report indicates that many crimes committed by US, multi-nationality and government forces, militias, and employees of private foreign companies, which are documented by pictures and documents, have gone without punishment. Moreover, the report touched on the case of undergoing difficult situations for female politicians, journalists, employees in the public sector due to their religious beliefs or race.⁴

In a report by Oxfam Organization on Iraqi women in 2009 it was stated that: 55% of women interrogated are victims of violence since 2003. More than 30% of them have at least one dead family member as a result of violence. 45% of them said that their financial resources became worse in 2008 compared to 2007 and 2006. 50% of them said that medical treatment became harder and worse in 2008 compared to 2007 and 2006.

Furthermore, 40% of women have children out of school, and 81% of women did not finish their secondary or higher education due to inability, bad security situations, or lack of the desire to continue.

³ Red Cross report on March 2009 entitled "Woman in Iraq".

⁴ In the report of Amnesty International entitled "Women in Iraq in the fist of violence" issued on March 2009.

Dr. Nawal Alsamera'i, Minister of Woman, resigned lately after announcing that arrested females in Iraqi prisons are being tortured on daily basis, harassed, and raped. She said that her resignation was due to the ongoing negligence of the violations of women rights. Moreover, the Iraqi government is still ignoring on purpose the needs of women and children and this represents contempt and humiliations of women.

Recently, the Iraqi activist (Malak Hamdan) stood in the meeting of the committee of Human Rights of UN in April of 2009, and said that "the state of Iraqi women is disastrous. The greatest evidence for violations is that 600 active women in the Iraqi society were assassinated, among them there were 350 physicians and workers in the health sector.

In numbers, she said that there are 1.500.000 divorced women, 2.000.000 widows, and 4.000.000 illiterate women. Many of these women, who used to depend on the salary of their husbands in the past, are facing now poverty, ignorance, and emigration. Numbers also indicate that there are more than 4.000.000 orphans.

In a previous incident, which is documented by our side, a joint force of US troops and Government Guards raided the house of (Kamal Mustaf Jamil Aljwari) in Alghalibia area in Daiala governorate on Thursday September 13th, 2007. This joint force arrested (Ghania Salman Khalaf), two of her children, and two of her relatives who were in the house. Furthermore, the force attacked a 12 years old girl and beat her harshly and she is now in the hospital. The same force returned to the house and arrested Mr. Kamal's wife and sister (Enas Ahmad`Atia and Rasha Mustaf Jamil). The corpses of the two women were thrown in the street and the US forces prevented their families from receiving their corpses.

Deputy Hareth Alobaidi revealed in a statement published on May 11th, 2009 –before his assassination- that women are raped, arrested, and tortured, in addition to 4000 female prisoners in a women prison related to the Ministry of Justice. Among these prisoners there are a number of certificates' holders who are facing charges of hostility and malicious accusations.

It is obvious that Kurdistan region is considered one of the most areas in which rights of women are breached. During the period of July 2007 to June 2008, 282 women were killed or faced death due to deliberate burning, suicide because of violence, or family oppression.⁵

In the meanwhile, medical sources in Kurdistan region said that the month of May witnessed a surge in violence against women due to the increase in honor crimes and suicide of females.

A medical source- asked his identity not to be revealed- in Alsulaimaniah city explained that the first ten days of May witnessed the murder of 14 women, seven of which were killed in unknown circumstances, while another 11 women attempted suicide in the region.

According to numbers by the government of the region, Alsulaimaniah city witnessed alone 50 suicide attempts by women through burning themselves, in addition to 8 women who attempted to hang themselves.

Enclosures:

- Documented list of 286 religious figures and scholars who were assassinated.
- Documented list of 292 Academics, Scientists figures who were assassinated.

⁵ In the report of Amnesty International entitled "Women in Iraq in the fist of violence" issued on March 2009.