

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO IRAQ – ADD.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- As a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Iraq has made commitment to eliminate these practices. What measures have been adopted by Iraq since the last UPR review to effectively fight torture? Does Iraq consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to CAT?
- Following the spike of violence provoked by the offensive of the Islamic State there have been multiple reports of grave violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated also by Iraqi forces and pro-government militias, including arbitrary detentions and even executions of detainees. What measures will the Iraqi government take to ensure that such practices are not repeated in the future and those that have already taken place are thoroughly investigated? What systemic provisions are there to prevent such incidents from happening?
- What measures have been adopted by Iraq since the last UPR review to effectively fight discrimination against women? Does Iraq consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

GERMANY

- Which measures have been taken by Iraq to fully ensure freedom of expression and opinion, including free media, and to protect journalists and media professionals from harassment, intimidation and violence?
- Which measures does Iraq take to protect the human rights of persons in detention, be it police custody or prisons? In particular, which safeguards are in place to allow regular access to legal counsel, and to prevent ill-treatment and torture, including sexual and gender-based violence, against detainees? Which steps have been taken to improve protection of female detainees? How does Iraq ensure that conditions for underage detainees are in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- Since the first UPR cycle, reports on violence against women have continued. Which steps does Iraq take to protect women and girls from discrimination and all forms of violence, including domestic violence?

NORWAY

- Since the previous UPR in 2010, there has been a worrying trend of increased use of death penalties. It was a step in the right direction when Iraq stated that they will keep the number of death penalties to a minimum. Norway would like to see a moratorium on capital punishment in Iraq. Will measures be taken to place such a moratorium on the use of the death penalty?
- During the previous UPR in 2010, Iraq agreed to address domestic violence and to consider legal reform to address violence against women. However, several elements of the drafted Jaafari Personal Status law contradict international human rights. Will Iraq consider discarding the draft?
- How will the Government of Iraq ensure that its citizens can exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, in compliance with Iraq's international human rights commitments?
- There are reports of attacks on religious minorities, and human rights organizations are extremely concerned about an ongoing climate of impunity that exists in relation to these attacks. What measures does Iraq plan to take in order to create the conditions for an inclusive political environment that includes respect for religious and ethnic minorities and does the Iraqi government share the concern regarding a climate of impunity?
- In accordance with its human rights obligations, what measures will the Government of Iraq take to eliminate the detention of persons without charge or trial?
- During the previous UPR, Norway recommended Iraq to give priority to facilitating the visits requested by Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Will the Government of Iraq consider inviting the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to Iraq?

SWEDEN

- Does the Government of Iraq recognize underlying reasons in society for inequality, for example when it comes to equal political participation and equal access to education? If so: what measures have been taken to address these?
- In what way has the Government of Iraq developed a national plan to address the situation of the several millions of IDP:s and refugees that are present in its territory, allocated funds and set into motion coordination between relevant ministries and authorities for that purpose, including fulfilling its responsibility to protect?

UNITED KINGDOM

- The situation for ethnic and religious groups including Muslims, Christians, Yazidis, Turkmen and others remains deeply concerning. What is being done to protect vulnerable groups from continued attacks and persecution; and also to enable them to return to their homes in areas where they have been displaced – particularly where their neighbours have allegedly been complicit in the persecution?
- How many men and women were executed by the state authorities in Iraq in 2013?
- Despite the commitment of the Iraqi Government to increase awareness of human rights among employees in the judicial system, police force and security forces, we continue to receive reports of the mistreatment and human rights violations of suspects in detention and in prisons, for example confessions obtained by torture and the extrajudicial killing of terrorist prisoners. What steps have been taken to ensure respect for human rights by the Iraqi police and security forces?
- Will Iraq ratify the optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- We would be grateful if you would outline how you have promoted the development of an effective civil society since the last UPR and provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your report.