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## Human Rights Now

**Oral statement on agenda Item 6**  
Universal Periodic Review, Iraq  
**UN Human Rights Council 28<sup>th</sup> Session,**  
Geneva, **BASSIM BOU TEMINE**



Mr. President,

Human Rights Now condemns the grave human rights violations committed by ISIL, including executions, targeted killings of civilians and journalists, abductions, rape and sexual violence, and the enslavement of women and children.

At the same time, HRN must express grave concern over the widespread and systematic human rights violations committed by the Iraqi government and its security forces against its own citizens, mainly against the Sunni population.

In early 2014, the Iraqi government committed indiscriminate civilian attacks in Ramadi and Fallujah causing hundreds of civilian deaths. During the Anbar attack, Iraq Security Forces targeted civilian hospitals, killing doctors, aid workers and the wounded. Such brutal and illegal operations incited a chain of retaliations among affected communities.

In the current conflict, ISF, associated with Shiite militia groups, conducts mass killings, attacks and torture against Sunnis in Sunni-majority regions. In January 2015, at least 72 unarmed Sunni Muslims in Barwanah were allegedly killed by such forces.

In February 2015, a moderate Sunni tribal leader and associates were allegedly assassinated by Shiite assailants. Many photos and videos prove the gravity of ongoing widespread and escalating violations that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Lack of rule of law, discriminative attacks against targeted populations and prevailing impunity over the human rights violations committed by the government and ISF significantly contribute to a chain of retaliations.

We urge the Iraqi government to:

- (a) Immediately take measures to stop unlawful attacks against civilian populations, in particular Sunni people;
- (b) Protect civilians during conflict and adhere to international human rights and humanitarian law;
- (c) Conduct thorough investigations of past human rights violations and ensure justice and accountability; review all human rights policies since 2003 and conduct institutional reform to prevent further violations;
- (d) Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We also recommend the UN Human Rights Council appoint a UN special rapporteur on Iraq under agenda item 4.

Thank you.