

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **Amnesty International calls on Iraq to uphold human rights during the current crisis**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Iraq***

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned about ongoing and past human rights abuses carried out with total impunity. It is urgent to address the problems faced by the thousands who are internally displaced by the conflict.<sup>1</sup> However, it is equally important for the government to rein in Shi'a militias and hold them to account for the abuses they have committed, including dozens of cases of extortions, abductions, and killings of Sunni civilian men. Several States called on Iraq to eliminate the militias and other armed groups fighting alongside government forces.<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International calls on Iraq to act on these recommendations.

In the past year, Amnesty International has gathered evidence pointing to a pattern of extrajudicial executions of detainees by Iraqi government forces. Air strikes launched by government forces against Islamic State (IS)-controlled areas have also killed and injured dozens of civilians, some in indiscriminate attacks. Several States urged the government to guarantee respect for international humanitarian and human rights law during military operations.<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International calls on Iraq to act on these.

A long-standing issue that remains unaddressed is the rampant use of torture and other ill-treatment of detainees in order to extract confessions. In many cases such confessions are used as the sole evidence to sentence individuals in grossly unfair trials, sometimes to death. Several States called on Iraq to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment,<sup>4</sup> to investigate allegations of torture, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International calls on Iraq to act on these.

Regrettably, Iraq is one of the leading executioners in the world. Since the death penalty was reinstated in 2004, at least 689 people have been executed, including at least 431 since Iraq's last UPR in 2010. Amnesty International calls on Iraq to act on recommendations put forward by 21 states to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.206 (Chile), 127.207 (Japan), 127.208 (Austria), 127.209 (Norway), 127.210 (Uruguay), 127.211 (Argentina), 127.212 (Slovakia), 127.213 (Republic of Korea), 127.214 (Serbia), 127.215 (Sweden).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.103 (United States of America), 127.105 (Turkey), 127.106 (Canada).

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.100 (Spain), 127.101 (Mexico), 127.102 (Switzerland).

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.119 (France), 127.120 (Costa Rica), 127.121 (Norway), 127.122 (Austria), 127.123 (Spain), 127.124 (Uruguay).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.9 (Austria), 127.10 (Uruguay), 127.19 (Togo, Paraguay), 127.20 (Sierra Leone), 127.22 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 127.23 (Czech Republic), 127.24 (Bulgaria).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/28/14, recommendations 127.6 (Sierra Leone), 127.7 (Spain), 127.8 (Australia), 127.107 (Italy), 127.108 (Namibia), 127.109 (Latvia, Mexico, Turkey, Germany, Greece, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Montenegro), 127.110 (Norway), 127.111 (Costa Rica), 127.112 (Algeria, Austria), 127.113 (Portugal), 127.114 (Belgium), 127.115 (Slovenia), 127.116 (Israel).

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Iraq on 19 March 2015 during its 28<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Iraq:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde14/006/2014/en/>

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