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UN Commission on Human Rights: Thorough discussion on Iraq essential

The human rights situation in Iraq urgently requires a thorough, in-depth discussion, Amnesty International said in response to the UN Commission on Human Rights' decision not to hold a special sitting on that country.

Amnesty International has documented for years the on-going human rights problems in Iraq.

"The Commission must discuss the situation in Iraq, not just limited to abuses committed by the current government, but also looking at the impact of war on the human rights and humanitarian conditions," Amnesty International said.

"After all the Commission is the UN's principal body responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights."

The Commission has appointed a Special Rapporteur on Iraq. However, his mandate is limited to investigating human rights violations committed by the Government of Iraq. Amnesty International is calling for this mandate to be expanded to cover human rights violations committed by any party in Iraqi territory.

"Whether or not this thorough debate takes place, will be a test of the Commission's credibility," Amnesty International concluded.

Public Document

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