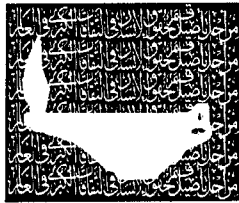


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CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

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United Nations Human Rights Council: 14th Session
Oral Intervention- Item 6- UPR Iraq
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
11 June, 2010

Delivered by: Ali Diwan

Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is on behalf of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and the Iraqi Human Rights Association in Denmark. We welcome the fact that the Iraqi government has accepted 135 of 176 recommendations.

In relation to Recommendations 122 – 127, there is a severe lack of progress on the improvement of the condition of Iraqi refugees, especially in neighboring countries such as Syria where more than a million Iraqi refugees currently live.

Iraqi refugees in Syria live under harsh conditions and struggle to obtain adequate food, housing, and health care. Only 50,000 of over half a million Iraqi children in Syria are able to attend schools. The Iraqi and US governments share responsibility for ensuring that basic humanitarian needs of these refugees and their reintegration into Iraq.

In relation to recommendations 93 – 97: Freedom of expression is increasingly repressed in Iraq. The government has recently issued orders to all government employees, including in schools and hospitals, not to accept interviews with journalists without special permission from the government.

Iraq remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists to work. Since the occupation began, more than 273 journalists have been killed. The last of these was Saradasht Othman, from Irbil, who was kidnapped from the University gates in broad daylight and killed on the 6th of May.

In relations to Recommendation 104: According to the Red Cross, 60% of those in Iraq still lack sufficient access to potable drinking water. This situation requires urgent attention.

Other human rights concerns- such as corruption, secret detention, and torture- also lack concrete improvement and need urgent action.

Thank you Mr. President.