

# **Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review of Iraq**

*For consideration by the Office of the UN High Commissioner  
for Human Rights for the 20<sup>th</sup> session  
of the UPR Working Group in 2014*

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## **Introduction**

1. This submission outlines the London Legal Group's concerns in relation to the following human rights and related issues in Kurdish Regional Government 'KRG' of Northern Iraq (KRG):
  - (a) Restrictions on freedom expression
  - (b) Torture and ill-treatment of those detained by agents of the state;
  - (c) Discriminatory practices towards women.
2. The London Legal Group's concerns are based upon KRG's obligations contained in a number of international treaties and conventions signed and ratified by the Republic of Iraq, and in domestic legislation, all of which are identified during the course of this submission.

## **Freedom of Expression**

3. The London Legal Group is particularly concerned by the extent to which the legislative framework in the Kurdish Regional Government 'KRG' of Northern Iraq allows for violations of freedom of expression, although Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq enshrines this important right<sup>1</sup>. Article 46 allows restrictions to the right of freedom of expression to be imposed "by law or on the basis of it, and insofar as that limitation...does not violate the essence of the right or freedom"; hence creating a significant leeway for restrictions to be imposed which are not permitted by international law<sup>2</sup>.
4. Iraq is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 (ICCPR). Article 19(2) of the ICCPR entitles "everyone the freedom of expression" including "the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds." However, the Iraqi Criminal Code No. 111 of 1969 not only makes it illegal, but also criminalizes and unduly punishes, varieties of expression valid under the Iraqi

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<sup>1</sup> Article 38 states "The State shall guarantee in a way that does not violate public order and morality: Freedom of expression using all means.

Freedom of press, printing, advertisement, media and publication.

Freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration, and this shall be regulated by law".

<sup>2</sup> Under Article 19 of the ICCPR, freedom of expression may be restricted only under three cumulative conditions:

The limitation must be provided by law;

The limitation must pursue a legitimate aim; and

The limitation must be strictly "necessary".

This 'three-part test' is an essential safeguard to abuse of state power; any public authority or official seeking to restrict the right of freedom of expression should ensure that all three conditions are met.

Constitution and the ICCPR. Promoting, publicizing or commenting on certain subjects may receive punishments up to and including life imprisonment.<sup>3</sup>

5. There are continuing concerns about the freedom of expression in Northern Iraq, with some reports of journalists being targeted for prosecution, violence and in some instances arbitrary arrest on account of their reporting<sup>4</sup>. According to the Kurdistan Journalist Syndicate 'KJS', there were 291 cases of violation of the rights of journalists in the Kurdistan region during 2011, of which mostly took place during demonstrations. During the period of 2012, the Metro Centre for Defending Journalist alone 'MCDJ' recorded a total number of 28 cases of violations whilst the KJS recorded 51 cases.<sup>5</sup> The same year also saw the arbitrary arrest of a number of journalists for allegedly portraying the government in an unpleasant manner. This also applies to the general public. Charges seem to be filed under Article 433 of the Iraqi Penal Code which criminalizes defamation, which has been used to target journalists in order to suppress freedom of expression.<sup>6</sup> Further during 2013, the KJS reported 20 incidents while the MCDJ reported 100 violations.<sup>7</sup> On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014, two journalists were targeted in murder attempts during their professional duties where they were "badly hurt".<sup>8</sup> Reporters Without Borders have stated: "The appalling climate in which journalists have to work in Iraq [as a whole] constitutes a major threat to freedom of information in this country".<sup>9</sup>
6. These figures are not accurate and are expected to be much higher as there are many incidents which have gone unreported. Also, as alleged by the MCDJ, the KJS is said to have political leanings towards the governing Kurdistan Democratic Party "and therefore deliberately underreports cases of attacks".<sup>10</sup>
7. Article 2 of the Kurdistan Press Law (No.35 of 2007) protects the rights of journalists to obtain information they think is necessary for the interest of the public and it also states that journalists should be protected from arrest. Following concerns, in July 2013 a step

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<sup>3</sup> NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq "Mechanisms of Deteriorating Civil Liberties in Iraq" 16 September 2012. <http://www.ncciraq.org/en/publications/studies/item/965-mechanisms-of-deteriorating-civil-liberties-in-iraq> Accessed on 21 January 2014

<sup>4</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.8 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>5</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, June 2013 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.29 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International, "Hope and Fear: Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2009, pg.42 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/006/2009> Accessed on 23 January 2014

<sup>7</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, August 2013 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.10 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>8</sup> Reporters Without Borders, "Two Journalists Targeted in Murder Attempts" 20 January 2014, <http://en.rsf.org/iraq-two-journalists-targeted-in-murder-20-01-2014,45752.html> Accessed on 20 January 2014

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, August 2013 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.10 Accessed 19 January 2014

was taken towards the development of freedom of expression in Northern Iraq where the law on the right to access information (Law No.11 of 2013) was approved. Despite the above, concerns still remain and freedom of expression continues to be severely curtailed in practice, especially since some exceptions contained in the law seem too broad and could therefore be exploited by public officials to actually deny the right.<sup>11</sup>

### **Torture and ill-treatment of those detained by agents of the state**

8. Iraq ratified the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 7 July 2011. However it has yet to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).<sup>12</sup> Following the UPR's 20<sup>th</sup> session, a number of states recommended Iraq to conform to international standards in terms of torture and ill-treatment of those who are in detention centres. In particular, no response was given to Argentina's recommendation to accede to the OPCAT.
9. Prior to the 2011 Report on Human Rights in Iraq by the UNAMI and OHCHR, there were serious concerns in relation to the treatment of prisoners during arrest and detention. Although the overall human rights conditions in Northern Iraq in comparison to Iraq remained much more promising, the conditions were still unacceptable as serious challenges remained which are also evident today.<sup>13</sup> Information collected by the UNAMI suggests that in terms of Northern Iraq there has been very little improvement in the physical conditions of many detention facilities as well as the general quality of treatment of detainees. Ghana recommended that Iraq should "Adhere to international standards regarding fair trials, and address allegations of abuse of detainees, including juveniles" which they accepted. However, the London Legal Group along with other reports still suggest that there serious issues remain for example "torture is used to extract information from detainees and the confessions that are obtained are used as evidence in court".
10. Despite the constitution, laws of Iraq and International standards prohibiting the use of torture<sup>14</sup>, there is significant evidence of continued widespread mistreatment and abuse, on occasion amounting to torture, of persons in detention centers and prison facilities<sup>15</sup>. In

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<sup>11</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, August 2013 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.19 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>12</sup> OPCAT would provide for the establishment of an effective and independent regime for the inspection of places of detention with a view to more effectively ensuring the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

<sup>13</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.8 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>14</sup> Article 7 of the ICCPR states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

<sup>15</sup> Article 37 of the Iraqi Constitution prohibits any form of coercion or torture

detention centers and prisons, systematic torture has become a universally applied conduct as reported by NGO's and testimonies of those who have actually been tortured.<sup>16</sup> Torture often occurs immediately following arrest when detainees are held incommunicado in police stations or in prisons and detention centres. The methods of torture adopted range from beating with hoses and sharp tools, burning and pouring petrol on the bodies, forcing detainees to sit on sharp objects to sexual assault<sup>17</sup>. On 22 June, the UNAMI received information from the police about a detainee who was said to have been detained for 10 days before seeing the judge. He was sent to a hospital in Kirkuk due to visible marks of torture where he died.<sup>18</sup> This violates the absolute prohibition of torture in terms of the standards required for the treatment of detainees under Article 7 and 10 of the ICCPR. Allegations of serious human rights violations have also been made against the Asayish. The purpose and role of the Asayish is to "protect the population, provide stability and security in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq"<sup>19</sup>, which does not seem to be the case. The KRG authorities have failed to establish prompt and impartial investigations into such allegations.<sup>20</sup> Despite all this it can be said that there were also some improvements. Cases of ill-treatment or abuse of detainees in the KRG seemed much better in comparison to those in Iraq especially since the KRG has been proactive in investigating claims of torture.

11. From the findings, UNAMI reported that suspects are routinely arrested and detained without warrants usually for prolonged periods without charge or trial. They are held with no access to legal representation thereby being unable to actually challenge the legality of their detention. This is a clear violation of International human rights law as well as breach of Iraqi legislation which has safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention<sup>21</sup>.
12. Until recently, a large number of detainees were held without charge or trial in Northern Iraq, some even for several years. Following Amnesty International's memorandum in 2008, the KRG authorities released up to 3000 detainees. However, during Amnesty's 2008 visit to detention facilities following these releases, they noted that there were still hundreds of people being held without charge or trial. The UNAMI visited detention centres during 2011, noting prolonged pre-trial detention. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Waleed Yunus Ahmad was sentenced to five years imprisonment under article 1 of the Anti-

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<sup>16</sup> Article 37 of the Iraqi Constitution, Article 37 prohibits any form of coercion or torture. Article 127 of ICPC prohibits the use of any illegal method to influence the accused to extract a confession. Mistreatment, threats, injury, enticement, promises, psychological influence or use of drugs or intoxicants are considered illegal. Furthermore, Article 333 of the ICPC criminalises any public official who tortures or orders torture, or threatens torture, of a person accused of a criminal act, including witnesses, with the aim of compelling a confession.

<sup>17</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.16 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, pg.17

<sup>19</sup> Article 6 of Law 46 of 2004

<sup>20</sup> Amnesty International, "Hope and Fear: Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2009, pg.9 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/006/2009> Accessed on 23 January 2014

<sup>21</sup> Article 13 of the Anti-Terrorism Law in KRG states that anyone detained should have access to a lawyer and must not be tortured.

Terrorism Law and the charges were laid in February 2011. However, UNAMI reports that the accused was in custody since June 2000, and that he was convicted under the Anti Terrorism Law, which had not been enacted in 2001 at the time Ahmad's actions were alleged to have taken place. The UNAMI states that *"not taking into account the period he spent in detention breached the principle of legality and of criminal law"*<sup>22</sup>.

13. According to figures provided by the KRG, as of 31 December 2011 there were around 1,449 adults detained in facilities run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; of which 743 were children. The total number of detainees and prisoners held by the KRG stood at 2,812 by the end of December 2012. Of these, 1428 were pre-trial detainees of which 383 were juveniles.<sup>23</sup> In 2013, there were around 2410 persons held in detention the KRG whom of which around 300 children were showing a slight decline in the figures.
14. A promising change to note is in terms of the death penalty in the KRG as compared to Iraq. During the period of 2012 and 2013, in terms of the death penalty, no executions took place. This is promising comparing to the year 2011, when the KRG sentenced 9 prisoners to death.<sup>24</sup>
15. The 2012 report conducted by the UNAMI and OHCHR stated that efforts to improve the physical conditions in prisons in terms of overcrowding through the planned construction of new detention facilities, introduction of rehabilitation programs were continued by the KRG. It is anticipated that the conditions in these centres will improve once these constructions are completed. It can be said that overcrowding has inevitably led to poor hygiene; in turn causing physical illnesses and psychological problems. Nonetheless, overcrowding still seems to be an issue. During the period of 2011 and before, the UNAMI received complaints in regards to a counter-terrorism facility in Diyala. It was said that there were around 500 detainees who were allegedly housed in three rooms, which were 6 x 4 metres each. Having said this, these detainees were also said to share two bathrooms amongst them where water supply was non-existent. This clearly means that health conditions were unacceptable<sup>25</sup>. A new detention facility is to be opened in Erbil with a capacity of 400 detainees as compared to its capacity of 100 detainees before which may pave way for some improvements.

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<sup>22</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.19 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>23</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, August 2013 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.16 Accessed 22 January 2014

<sup>24</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, December 2011 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.20 Accessed 22 January 2014

<sup>25</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.14 Accessed 22 January 2014

16. It is London Legal Group's view that the totality of the misconduct applied against detainees constitutes violations of the prohibition of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial and the right to respect for their private and family life.

### **Discriminatory practices towards women**

17. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979 was ratified by Iraq in June 1986. However, Iraq has made a number of reservations upon their ratification of the CEDAW.<sup>26</sup>

18. The women in Northern Iraq and Iraq have suffered years of continuous oppression where marriage and motherhood are still seen as the cornerstones of these women's lives<sup>27</sup>. Article 20 of the Iraqi Constitution provides women's rights to participate in public affairs and the political system equally to men; however, in practice, women frequently face discrimination and are denied equal opportunity and protection of the law. Although there are some signs that this is changing, there is still a long way to go as women continue to suffer disproportionately from patterns of violations.

19. Another major concern in Northern Iraq in particular is that of the process of Female Genital Mutilation 'FGM'. A study was carried out in order to estimate the prevalence of FGM amongst women in Erbil. The study revealed an alarming figure, which exceeded 50% of women being affected<sup>28</sup>. Better education and effective rights for women may help to decrease the practice of FGM (through spreading awareness)<sup>29</sup> especially since FGM is not a marginal practice; it affects the majority of females in the Kurdistan region<sup>30</sup>.

20. A draft anti-FGM law was passed by the KRG parliament in 2008. By 2011, the government still had not banned FGM or created a comprehensive plan to eradicate it.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> They have reserved the right not to be bound by article 2, subparagraphs (f) and (g), of article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, or of article 16 of the Convention.

<sup>27</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture\\_gallery/05/middle\\_east\\_women0s\\_lives\\_in\\_northern\\_iraq/html/1.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/05/middle_east_women0s_lives_in_northern_iraq/html/1.stm)

<sup>28</sup> Stop FGM in Kurdistan "New Study Found High FGM rate in Erbil/Kurdistan" 10 January 2014 <http://www.stopfgmkurdistan.org/html/english/articles/article081e.htm> Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>29</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.8 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>30</sup> Stop FGM in Kurdistan "New Study Found High FGM rate in Erbil/Kurdistan" 10 January 2014 <http://www.stopfgmkurdistan.org/html/english/articles/article081e.htm> Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>31</sup> Human Rights Watch "World Report 2011: Iraq" <http://www.hrw.org/world-report-2011/iraq> Accessed 19 January 2014

21. According to official records collated and published by Amnesty International, at least 102 women and girls were killed between the beginning of July 2007 and the end of June 2008 in Northern Iraq. These include an unknown number of honour killings. Additionally, a further 262 died or were severely injured during the same period due to intentional burning to disguise a killing, including suicides. In recent years, the KRG has addressed violence against women.<sup>32</sup> Nonetheless, violence perpetrated against females remains a concern as cases continue to be regularly reported to the UNAMI by government sources. Between January and December the Directorate to Follow up Violence against Women confirmed to the UNAMI that it had received and documented a total of 4,084 cases.<sup>33</sup>
22. Honor remains as a mitigating defence to a charge of murder under the Iraqi Criminal Code, which has resulted in the condoning of domestic violence incidents amongst many Iraqis.<sup>34</sup> It remains a serious physical threat to females in Northern Iraq as well as Iraq. Iraqi human rights and women's organizations reported some 1,270 cases of honor crimes in Iraq between 2004 and 2008, most of them in Northern Iraq. In Kirkuk, according to figures from the Kirkuk Directorate of Health, 62 women were reported to have died of burns during 2011.<sup>35</sup> Precise information on the extent of the problem is difficult to ascertain given the fact that many such crimes are committed within the family and are usually unreported. Even if they were reported the authorities often fail to take any measures to investigate the incident.
23. The UNAMI as well as the OHCHR called Iraq to undertake legal and regulatory reform in 2011 to abolish 'honor' as a mitigating excuse in relation to crimes of violence against women. The KRG, unlike the government of Iraq, has taken some positive steps in response to gender-based violence; in 2002 it suspended laws providing for "mitigating circumstances" to reduce the punishments for 'honor' crimes and increased penalties for such crimes. However rates of reported incidents of violence against women still remain high.
24. The KRG adopted the law Combating Domestic Violence No.8 in June 2011. This is also a crucial step in eradicating the practice of FGM. A feminist activist and an official from the Warvin Institute for Women's Issues, Linja Abdullah, stated "Every year, the number

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<sup>32</sup> Amnesty International, "Hope and Fear: Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2009, pg.31 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/006/2009> Accessed on 23 January 2014

<sup>33</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.26 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>34</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, December 2011 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.25 Accessed 22 January 2014

<sup>35</sup> Amnesty International, "Hope and Fear: Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2009, pg.31 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/006/2009> Accessed on 23 January 2014



[of female victims] is increasing. According to the government's plan, the number should be decreasing, but the government's strategies have not been successful".<sup>36</sup>

25. Due to the growing confidence of women to speak out, reporting of incidents increased. For example between July and December 2012, a figure of 2,469 cases of violence against women was reported to the UNAMI.<sup>37</sup> During the UNAMI's next reporting year, a figure of 2256 incidents was reported, showing a slight decline.
26. International human rights standards recognize the right to education; however, the number of women and girls who received no school education was alarmingly high. According to the WHO study, 31.7% of the interviewed females aged between 15-49 never attended school.<sup>38</sup> Depriving girls of education constitutes, among other things, a form of economic discrimination, hence they are unlikely to achieve or fulfil their own economic freedom.

## **Conclusion**

27. The human rights situation in the KRG of Northern Iraq remains a matter of serious concern despite earlier recommendations from the UPR and opportunities for improvement. It is clear that there is still a very long way to go before it can claim to meet the human rights standards set out in the international human rights instruments it is a party to. Reforms are necessary at constitutional level to bring its national legislation in line with its obligations under international law.
28. Investigations must be made particularly with regard to allegations of torture and ill treatment against those who are detained as well as gender based violence perpetrated against females. Those who commit crimes should be held accountable and effective remedies should be provided to victims. Furthermore, protection for journalists should be provided as well as the general public in terms of exercising their freedom of speech.
29. The London Legal Group recommends that the KRG improves its stance in regards to freedom of expression, its treatment of those who are detained as well as its treatment towards women.

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<sup>36</sup> Al Monitor "KRG fail to combat violence against women in Kurdistan" 4 February 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/violence-against-women-kurdistan.html#> Accessed on 24 January 2014

<sup>37</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/UNAMI, Report on Human Rights in Iraq, May 2012 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR\\_HR\\_Report2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/IraqUNAMI-OHCHR_HR_Report2011_en.pdf) pg.20 Accessed 19 January 2014

<sup>38</sup> World Health Organization, "Iraq Family Health Survey 2006-2007", pp.2 and 13, [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr02/2008\\_iraq\\_family\\_health\\_survey\\_report.pdf](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr02/2008_iraq_family_health_survey_report.pdf) Accessed on 25 January 2014