



Oral Statement
Minority Rights Group International
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Adoption of UPR report
Iraq
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Mark LATTIMER

Speaker: Mr. ~~Glenn Payot~~

Thank you Mr. President,

The occasion of the adoption of the UPR report comes at a crucial time for Iraq. The on-going armed conflict has opened millions of civilians to serious human rights violations including forced displacement, summary executions, abductions and sexual violence. Iraq's minorities have been targeted by violent campaigns seeking to eradicate Iraq's ethnic and religious diversity and their future is at grave risk. It is essential that the government of Iraq take urgent measures to end the current crisis and work towards building a peaceful and inclusive future.

Minority Rights Group welcomes Iraq's commitment to strengthening the legal protection of minorities and combating discrimination. MRG also commends Iraq's willingness to increase the representation of minorities in security, governance and decision-making bodies. MRG urges the Iraqi government to take concrete measures to ensure that minorities participate on an equal level in building the future political, social and economic life of the country.

MRG applauds Iraq's pledge to improve the human rights situation of internally displaced persons in cooperation with the international community. MRG encourages all parties to take the particular needs of minority and women IDPs into account and to seek long-term solutions to facilitate the return and reintegration of displaced persons.

MRG deeply regrets the Iraqi government's decision to reject recommendations on acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Accepting the jurisdiction of the Court is a vital step in ending the climate of impunity and ensuring that perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian law are brought to account.

MRG calls on the Iraqi government to seek a lasting solution to the current crisis and to restore security, the rule of law, and respect for human rights to all components of Iraqi society.