



2. Human rights and treatment of specific profiles

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2.1 General human rights situation

Over the reference period serious human rights challenges persisted in the country. Authorities failed to hold perpetrators of serious crimes accountable,[454](#) restricted civic space,[455](#) and maintained discriminatory legal provisions affecting women[456](#) and children.[457](#) Perpetrators of violence against women[458](#) largely acted with impunity, while legal protections and support services remained limited.[459](#) Individuals with perceived affiliation with ISIL, including children, [460](#) faced severe challenges, and limited reintegration prospects.[461](#) LGBTIQ+ individuals continued to face threats from militias and social persecution.[462](#) Civil society actors, human rights defenders, and journalists continued to face administrative and legal restrictions on their work, as well as threats and harassment, including online.[463](#) Arrests of journalists covering protests continued.[464](#)

The use of torture and ill treatments during arrest and detention persisted over the reference period.[465](#) Enforced disappearances continued, with estimates ranging between 250 000 and 1 million people missing over the past five decades.[466](#)

A few years after the Tishreen protests (2019-2021), progress on accountability remained limited.[467](#) Amnesty International reported that, as of August 2024, out of 2 700 criminal investigations opened, only 10 arrest warrants had been issued and seven convictions handed down.[468](#)

Conditions in prisons remained dire, and prisoners were denied adequate healthcare. No effective investigations were carried out into deaths in custody.[469](#) Death penalty is still in force in Iraq,[470](#) while the KRG has maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2008.[471](#) The number of executions, all for terrorism-related offences, almost quadrupled in 2024 compared to 2023,[472](#) including reports of secret executions.[473](#) The counter-terrorism framework and practices in Federal Iraq and the KRI remained non-compliant with international human rights standards.[474](#)

UNAMI will cease all works and operations after 31 December 2025.[475](#)

In January 2025, Iraq underwent the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR), receiving 263 recommendations from 93 countries on a variety of topics including: human rights framework, freedom of expression, death penalty.[476](#)

Several key draft laws aimed at protecting human rights, including on Anti-Domestic Violence, freedom of Expression, protection from enforced disappearances and protection of minorities, remain pending.[477](#)

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