



2.2.3 The General Amnesty Law

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The General Amnesty Law provides for the reopening of investigations and trials reportedly based on confessions obtained under torture, evidence from anonymous informants, or confessions provided by third parties, and extends its applicability to crimes committed up to January 2025.⁵¹² The legislation was strongly backed by Sunni lawmakers, many of whom have long argued that anti-terrorism laws disproportionately targeted Sunni communities in the years after Iraq's clampdown on ISIL.⁵¹³ It is also expected to relieve severe prison overcrowding, with facilities holding 67 000 inmates despite a capacity of 25 000.⁵¹⁴ In addition, the amendment expands the list of terrorist offences that are explicitly excluded from amnesty, including crimes of incitement, assistance or recruitment that were committed before 10 June 2014.⁵¹⁵ The change could enable retrials for an estimated 30 000 Sunni detainees. The law applies to both convicted individuals and those under investigation or trial and allows for the review of death sentences.⁵¹⁶ The Amnesty law sparked criticism among Yazidi community, which feared that provisions would allow perpetrators of genocide targeting Yazidis in Sinjar and other areas to escape justice.⁵¹⁷ Additionally, concerns were raised over the potential misapplication of the law for those accused of corruption.⁵¹⁸ (See [section 2.3 on Ethnic religious minorities](#)).

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UNSG, Implementation of resolution 2732 (2024) Report of the Secretary-General, 30 May 2025, [url](#), para 50

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