



## 2.4.3 Individuals with (perceived) affiliation to ISIL

### 2.4.3 Individuals with (perceived) affiliation to ISIL

For more information on individuals with perceived affiliation to ISIL, see the [EUAA Country Focus, May 2024](#), section 1.1.3. Individuals with (perceived) affiliation to ISIL.

Both the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005<sup>652</sup> in Federal Iraq and the Anti-Terror Law No. 3 of 2006 in the KRI<sup>653</sup> contain vague and broad definitions of terrorism.<sup>654</sup> The KRI's Anti-Terror Law allows courts to accept confessions extracted under duress if supported by other evidence.<sup>655</sup> The Anti-Terror Law provides consecutive sentences for different terrorist acts, ranging from imprisonment for less than 15 years to life imprisonment or the death penalty. By contrast, the Federal Anti-Terrorism Law mandates the death penalty for any person convicted of specified terrorist acts. It imposes the same penalty on those who incite, plan, finance, or assist terrorists.<sup>656</sup>

In a report published in October 2024, Amnesty International has documented cases where authorities base ISIL affiliation accusations on weak evidence such as family ties, personal disputes, or false allegations meant to settle private conflicts or justify property seizures, leaving families with heavy financial burdens.<sup>657</sup> For more information on identification of ISIL affiliation and treatment of family members, see the [EUAA Country Focus, May 2024](#), section 1.1.3. Individuals with (perceived) affiliation to ISIL.

Between August 2024 and January 2025, the UN documented 21 executions of individuals convicted under counter-terrorism legislation, including one woman.<sup>658</sup> In total, at least 61 executions were recorded in 2024, marking a near fourfold increase compared to the previous year,<sup>659</sup> with many of them following terrorism-related convictions.<sup>660</sup> However, the Iraqi authorities do not publish official statistics on executions and, according to sources, have not provided such data despite multiple requests. According to the Association for Freedom and Democracy (AFAD), an independent group monitoring human rights in Iraq, the country has experienced an increase in secret executions.<sup>661</sup> Trials are reported as unfair, often relying on forced confessions.<sup>662</sup> Executions took place without prior notice to family members or lawyers, amid allegations of torture as well as other fair trial and due process violations.<sup>663</sup> However, no information on the profile of the individuals who were executed or ordered to be executed was provided by the sources consulted in this report. As of January 2025, over 8 000 prisoners, mostly charged with terrorism-related offenses, <sup>664</sup> were on the death row.<sup>665</sup> The Amnesty Law enacted in January 2025 has led to the release of more than 19 000 prisoners as of May 2025. The Amnesty Law is aimed at easing pressure on an overcrowded prison system, including

inmates convicted of being members of ISIL.[666](#) Detainees will now be permitted to request retrials if they claim their confessions were obtained through torture or coercion while in custody.[667](#) See [section 2.2 Latest legislation impacting civil and human rights: January 2025 Legislative Package](#).

- [652](#)

Iraq, Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005, [url](#)

- [653](#)

Iraq, Law No. 3 of 2006 on Combating Terrorism, [url](#)

- [654](#)

MENA Rights Group, Civil and political rights in Iraq since the 2019 Tishreen protests: Universal Periodic Review of Iraq, 13 August 2024, [url](#); OHCHR, Human Rights in the Administration of Justice in Iraq: Trials under the anti-terrorism laws and implications for justice, accountability and social cohesion in the aftermath of ISIL, January 2020, [url](#), p. 4

- [655](#)

MENA Rights Group, Civil and political rights in Iraq since the 2019 Tishreen protests: Universal Periodic Review of Iraq, 13 August 2024, [url](#)

- [656](#)

OHCHR, Human Rights in the Administration of Justice in Iraq: Trials under the anti-terrorism laws and implications for justice, accountability and social cohesion in the aftermath of ISIL, January 2020, [url](#), p. 4

- [657](#)

AI, Iraq: People held in Al-Jed'ah Centre subjected to torture and enforced disappearance after arrests - new

- [658](#)

UNSG, Twentieth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat, 31 January 2025, [url](#), para 22

- [659](#)

HRW, Iraq: Surging Unlawful Executions, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

- [660](#)

Guardian (The), Executions at 10-year high after huge increases in Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, 8 April 2025, [url](#)

- [661](#)

HRW, Iraq: Surging Unlawful Executions, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

- [662](#)

OHCHR, UN Human Rights Report, Report 2024, 30 May 2025, [url](#), p. 301

- [663](#)

HRW, Iraq: Surging Unlawful Executions, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

- [664](#)

HRW, World Report 2025, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

- [665](#)

EEAS, Iraq: Statement by the Spokesperson on the executions, 27 September 2024 [url](#);  
HRW, Iraq: Surging

- [666](#)

Al Jazeera, Iraq frees over 19,000 prisoners under new amnesty, including some ex-ISIL, 13 May 2025, [url](#)

- [667](#)

Al Jazeera, Iraq frees over 19,000 prisoners under new amnesty, including some ex-ISIL, 13 May 2025, [url](#)