

ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF EXTREMISM THROUGH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORM: PROPOSALS OF IRAQI CIVIL SOCIETY

3 Nov
2014

10h – 12h
Room XXV
Palais des Nations

A civil society delegation from Iraq presents the situation of Human Rights in Iraq and a comprehensive briefing document with questions and recommendations that should be brought to the attention of the Iraqi government during the Universal Review Process.



SPEAKERS

Mrs **Afyan Raheem ALI**, Tammuz Organization for Social Development

Mrs **Nibras AL-FORATI**, Iraqi Women Journalists Forum

Mrs **Yanar MOHAMMED**, Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

Mr **Yasir ALLELOI**, Press Freedom Advocacy Association in Iraq

MODERATOR

Mr **Ismaeel Dawood**, advocacy and policy officer for *Un ponte per...* and the *Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)*.

To learn more about the current situation in Iraq and the work of Iraqi civil society groups please consult the following websites:

ICSSI (Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative)

www.iraqicivilsociety.org

Un ponte per ...

www.unponteper.it

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Mr Ismaeel DAWOOD works for the Italian NGO **Un ponte per...** where he acts as advocacy and policy officer for the *Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)*, a program dedicated to supporting and promoting Iraqi civil society actions and proposals for social transformation.

Mrs **Afyar Raheem ALI**, director of **Tammuz Organization for Social Development**.

Tammuz Organization for Social Development is an Iraqi NGO that adopts the community needs and defends the rights of civilians through systematic and sustained activities. It aims to inform people about human rights principles and democracy, and promotes awareness rising about social and cultural issues through humanitarian, social and educative actions.

Mrs **Nibras AL-FORATI** is a member of the **Iraqi Women Journalists Forum** from Baghdad.

The **Iraqi Women Journalists Forum** highlights the work of media women in all fields, and holds seminars regarding what those women accomplish, as well as monitoring violations against them. The Forum also produces research, proposes trainings and acts as a watchdog to rally against violations of Human Rights, particularly women's rights.

Mrs **Yanar MOHAMMED** is a member of the **Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq** from Baghdad.

The **Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq** is a feminist organization aiming to organize public struggles to empower women in the fight against women's oppression in the Iraqi society, to achieve full equality between men and women under an egalitarian secular constitution, and to defend women's and human rights in Iraq.

Mr **Yasir ALLELOI** is a member of the **Press Freedom Advocacy Association in Iraq** from Baghdad.

The **Press Freedom Advocacy Association in Iraq** advocates for freedom of expression and freedom of the press. It monitors violations against journalists and media professionals in Iraq and defends Iraqi journalists by all legal means. It also documents violations through specific publications and periodic reports.

BACKGROUND

The Italian NGO *Un ponte per...* acting as focal point of the *Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)* coordinated in the past few months with many international and Iraqi CSOs in order to harmonize the advocacy work for human rights in Iraq. On September 23, 2014 a joint statement was published, titled “**New Government in Iraq Must Address The Root Causes of Extremism**” and calling for far-reaching political and social reforms which are essential to confront the root causes of extremism in Iraq. Recommendations and demands were released in a briefing document that highlights the severe, on-going human rights violations in Iraq from a civil society perspective.

This briefing document proposes questions and recommendations that should be brought to the attention of the Iraqi government. As the Universal Periodic Review is a State-driven process, the document also urges the Human Rights Council, its members and observer states to raise these questions and make their own recommendations during the review.

A delegation of Iraqi civil society is presenting the situation of Human Rights in Iraq in this side event during the UPR session. A previous meeting was organised last month during the pre-session in Geneva where the briefing document was presented publicly.

Key findings:

The international community must support the Iraqi government in providing protection for its citizens and investigating grave human rights violations. At the same time the new government in Iraq must address urgent issues of water scarcity, protection of human rights defenders and journalists, promoting women's and worker rights, and guaranteeing freedom of expression.

Civil society in Iraq continues to advocate for addressing the root causes of extremism in Iraq, pushing for the new Iraqi government to adopt far-reaching political and social reforms to protect and promote fundamental human rights and freedoms, and ensure the meaningful participation of all members of Iraqi civil society. Meaningful cultural and political change can only come about through a truly participatory process.

CONTACTS

Florent Schaeffer: 0039 388 992 44 63 – florent.schaeffer@unponteper.it

Ismaeel Dawood: 0039 329 134 51 17 – ismaeel.dawood@unponteper.it