



## United Nations Human Rights Organization's work in Iraq

Wijdan Raham Khudhair<sup>1</sup>, Prof Mostafa Fazaeli<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor

University of sumer

University of Qom<sup>2</sup>

Wijdanlawyer2014@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0009-0008-5793-2585>

### Abstract:

The United Nations is heavily involved in Iraq, carrying out a number of programs and initiatives in collaboration with the Iraqi government, civil society organizations, and foreign partners. Numerous fields are addressed by these programs, including housing, food security, health, nutrition, education, water, and sanitation.

**Keywords:** United Nations, Iraq, Human Rights, International Conventions, International Instruments, International Terrorism.

**Received:** 10 March 2024 **Revised:** 14 May 2024 **Accepted:** 19 June 2024

### Introduction

As Iraq has begun a new phase on the international level by seeking to join or sign global human rights agreements, it is appropriate that this transformation coincides with a qualitative improvement, especially since Iraq is still far from the individual complaints system proposed by some agreements. Since the ultimate goal in the sector of human rights is to safeguard individuals and guarantee their rights, the subject of individual complaints is in line with the orientations of the Iraqi Parliament at this stage and in the future. Therefore, determining the individual complaints system requires careful research on the position of this system, which calls for a close acquaintance with the international safeguard mechanisms for human rights.

### importance of research

The importance of the research is evident in clarifying the task of the UN in protecting human rights via its activities, committees, systems and bodies, as well as in highlighting the task of the intercontinental community in defending human rights and vital freedoms. This research must be strengthened so that the term "human rights" is not used internationally as a cover for the gross violations committed by some countries under the pretext of protecting these rights. The study also highlights the importance of human rights in intercontinental law as one of the prominent developments in human history, as the globe agrees on those basic human rights that must not be infringed upon, with an emphasis on achieving a balance between preserving these rights and protecting them from any infringement resulting from some harmful measures.

The significance of this research lies in its elucidation of the UN' role in safeguarding human rights through its various activities, committees, systems, and bodies. Additionally, it emphasizes the international community's responsibility in maintaining human rights and vital freedoms. The research

endeavors to prevent the misuse of the term "human rights" as a justification for the serious violations some countries might commit under the guise of protecting these rights. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of human rights with respect to framework of international law, marking a major advancement in human history. The global consensus on the need to uphold these essential human rights and the significance of balancing their preservation with protection against any harmful measures is also highlighted.

### **Search Plan**

The first search is the importance of the intercontinental community in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Second search is UNAMI's work in Iraq under current circumstances

### **The first search**

#### **The role of the international community in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.**

#### **The first requirement : Civil rights**

The 1948 UDHR outlines several civil rights, such as the freedom of movement, intellectual property rights, protection of privacy, nationality and the right to life. Legal documents by themselves do not ensure the effective protection of fundamental rights, even if they are included in many constitutions. Since it represents the application of the idea of the supremacy of the constitution or the rule of law, constitutional review is seen as one of the most significant of these guarantees, helping to safeguard the enjoyment of these rights.

Constitutional oversight is the tool that authorities face if they violate the code of the rule of law, and it has been legally enacted for this purpose. However, has constitutional oversight in Iraq exercised this role effectively? It is worth noting that the type of oversight in effect is oversight of cancellation, but the Federal Court cannot exercise this role independently, but rather upon a request from other courts or official or parliamentary bodies with an interest. This could negatively affect its role in protecting human rights, because the constitutional judge must raise any issues related to violating laws or constitutional regulations on his own, without waiting for this defense to be presented by certain parties, as the Supreme Constitutional Court in Egypt did.

The situation of the Federal Supreme Court is similar to that of the Seychelles Court, where it remains unable to annul many laws and decisions that are unconstitutional due to failure to receive requests from the competent authorities. As a result, many decisions of the dissolved Revolutionary Command Council remain in force under Article 130 of the Constitution, which establishes a violation of human rights preserved in the Constitution.

The Judicial Institute Law No. 33 of 1976 stipulates in Article 7 (First) that: "Anyone who is accepted to study at the Institute must be Iraqi by birth, of Iraqi parents by birth, and of non-foreign origin." It is vital to acknowledge that the right to personal safety stipulated by the Constitution includes Article 19/Twelve, which states that "Detention is prohibited," and Article 37/First/B, which states that "No one may be arrested or interrogated except by virtue of a judicial order."

In this context, we find that:

1. Decree No. 1333 of 1984 granted ministers and governors, each within his jurisdiction, the authority to detain Iraqi contractors for a period not exceeding two weeks.
2. Decree No. 27 of 1992 granted the Minister of Interior the authority to impose fines and arrest violators.
3. Decree No. 160 of 1997 and the amendment of Decree No. 10/1/2002 granted the Minister of Transport the authority to guard persons.

Accordingly, the civil rights of minorities in Iraq and the protection of Iraqi law can be described.

## **Second requirement: right to life**

The UDHR states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person" in Article 3. "Every human being has the inherent right to life," according to Article 6 of the ICCPR, "the law will uphold this right. Nobody's life may be taken from them without cause. According to the Human Rights Committee, Article 6 guarantees a "inalienable right." The right to be free from arbitrary killing should not be susceptible to derogation, "according to Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which means that this right cannot be compromised even in times of emergency. All people have the right to be respected for their lives, according to Article 4 of the American Convention. This right will be upheld by the law. Nobody may be deprived of their life arbitrarily. Article 4 of the Banjul Charter states, "The human person shall be inviolable." He should be treated with respect for his life, as well as for his moral and physical integrity. No one may have their rights violated arbitrarily. A legal framework should safeguard the right to life, as stated in Article 2 of the European Convention".

In accordance with international humanitarian law, "individuals have the right to not have their life taken away from them without a valid reason. A person who is not actively participating in a non-international armed conflict is banned from using violence against them "at all times and in all places... violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds," as stated in Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions. This prohibition applies to all situations and situations. An further prohibition is included in Article 4 of further Protocol II, which states that "violence to the life, health, or physical or mental integrity of persons not taking an active part in a non-international armed conflict" is not permitted".

As stated in Article 12 of the 1st and 2nd Geneva Conventions, "any attacks or acts of violence to their life shall be strictly prohibited; in particular, they shall not be murdered or exterminated." This means that injured and ill personnel of the armed forces must get humane treatment. Every action that may result in "physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their power" is forbidden under Article 32 of the 4th Geneva Convention. This forbids any atrocities that may be carried out by civilian or military agencies, such as murder or medical experimentation that are not required for the protected person's medical care.

Iraqi constitutional law guarantees the right to "life, liberty, and security" to all citizens (Article 15). The only method to limit or eliminate someone's rights is for a court with the proper authority to rule on the matter once it has been allowed by law. This article demonstrates the Iraqi constitutional legislator's dedication to the principles stated in regional and international human rights declarations and charters.

In light of this, it is believed that everyone has the basic right to life, which is unalienable due to the essence of human nature. All other human rights cannot be enjoyed until this one is realized and promoted, which is why it is defined by required regulations that cannot be altered or broken. Because they are regarded as fundamental principles by the world community, fundamental rights are distinguished by transcending the positive framework and do not need state positive law. Any nation that violates these regulations joins the group of authoritarian governments. The concept of non-discrimination on the basis of "race, color, sex, origin, religion, creed, or language" is one of these rights, which are prioritized in the UN Charter and the UDHR.

### **The criteria that can be adopted to reflect basic human rights are:.**

1. Human rights that are considered fundamental are those that take precedence over all others. Some clear examples of this are "the right of individuals to self-determination and the idea of non-discrimination based on race, gender, origin, or religion".
2. International declarations and treaties that restrict human rights also constitute basic rights. An international document that outlines basic rights might be used to establish these rights. It says the following:

Each Contracting Party should implement the following provisions, at the very least, in the event that a non-international armed disagreement breaks out on its territory:

A. There would be no harmful effects in treating humanely those who are not taking part in the war, such as soldiers who have surrendered their weapons or who are unable to fight because of sickness, injury, imprisonment, or any other reason.

In light of the above, the following behaviors toward the aforementioned individuals are and will always be forbidden: These offenses include kidnapping hostages, violating someone's dignity, especially by showing disdain or treating them cruelly, issuing judgments and enforcing penalties without first having a trial in a legal setting.

b) The ill and injured must be gathered and attended to. The parties to the dispute may be offered the assistance of an unbiased humanitarian organization like the ICRC. First and foremost, the parties to the dispute must cooperate via specific agreements to carry out all or some of the other obligations. When implemented, the terms of this Agreement will not have any effect on the parties' legal standing.

### **Third requirement: treaty bodies and their functions**

The nine international human rights treaty organizations keep an eye on governments' mandates to uphold and defend human rights. A State is legally obligated to carry out the terms of any treaty it ratifies or accedes, therefore assuming responsibility for its implementation. With the exception of the "International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, every treaty that has been ratified or acceded to establishes an international committee of independent experts called a treaty body to monitor how the treaty's provisions are carried out in the States that have joined the treaty". These panels are made up of individual experts with acknowledged expertise in human rights, ranging in size from 10 to 23.

Protocols that are optional usually cover certain topics and/or permit particular actions, such filing individual complaints or conducting investigations. The number of States ratifying human rights treaties has significantly increased in recent years, and the UN treaty body structure is essential to enhancing national human rights protection. All treaty bodies are supported by the "United Nations DAW of the of Economic and Social Affairs department in New York, with the exception of the CEDW, which is served by the Treaties and Follow-up Unit of the Treaties and Council Branch of the OHCHR. The UN Division for the Advancement of Women and the Treaties and Follow-up Unit receive submissions addressed to the treaty bodies; they also prepare reports, offer States parties technical assistance, direction, and advice; arrange meetings; and perform any other logistical tasks as needed by the treaty organizations".

#### **1 - Study of States Parties' reports**

Each state party is obligated to fulfill the substantive requirements of the treaty and also to keep the relevant treaty body informed of its progress in implementing the treaty's rights on a regular basis. In these reports, the state must detail the steps it has taken in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to implement the treaty's provisions, as well as the difficulties it has encountered. Typically, first reports are submitted by States Parties a year after the treaty becomes operative for the nation in question. The intervals between follow-up reports range from two to five years, depending upon the terms of the agreement and the rulings of the relevant committees. States Parties are required to consider the final remarks of the treaty body and their most recent report when determining when to submit their next report, since some committees accept combined reports.

States parties should see the reporting process as a chance to evaluate the state of human rights in their nation and to formulate relevant policy, in addition to seeing it as a way to fulfill an international duty. Following receipt of a State party's submission and other material, the Committee, at the discretion of the

treaty body, compiles a list of concerns and questions pertaining to that State, which may be discussed in a plenary session or a working group meeting. A State party may, under certain circumstances, respond in writing to the questions on the list. This is especially helpful if there is a lag between the submission and the Committee's assessment of it.

Treaty organizations provide concluding remarks highlighting areas that need improvement as well as good elements of treaty implementation. Despite not being judicial authorities, its purpose is to "monitor treaty implementation and offer encouragement and advise to States. It is essential that the State party provide the Committee with updates in future reports about the steps it has taken to put the treaty's recommendations and provisions into effect".

The Ministry of Human Rights in Iraq is now responsible for preparing treaty reports, thus it is vital to follow up on information pertaining to the relevant committees and get in touch with them in order to get the required data. As an Iraqi State Party to the ICCPR, copies of Iraq's prior reports should also be obtained for comparison and to evaluate progress in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Since the Ministry of Human Rights in Iraq is now in charge of preparing treaty reports, it is crucial to follow up on information pertaining to the relevant committees and get in touch with them in order to get the required data. Instead than being judicial entities that judge states, these groups work to support states. Iraq is party to the "ICCPR, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of DAW". Obtaining copies of previous reports submitted by Iraq is also necessary in order to compare them and evaluate advancements in the area of human rights protection and promotion.

## **2 - Consideration of individual complaints:**

Anyone who believes that a State party has violated their rights under certain circumstances may submit a submission or complaint to one of seven treaty institutions, and those organizations will evaluate it. The following committees are part of this system: "the Human Rights Committee, the Committee to End Racism, the Committee to Protect the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, the Committee to Investigate Forced Disappearances, the Committee to Advance the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Committee to Combat Torture, and the Committee to End Discrimination Against Women".

States Parties may choose to engage in this process, however complaints against a State Party will only be taken into consideration if that State has explicitly acknowledged the authority of the body in question, either by adopting the relevant Optional Protocol or by making a statement under the applicable article of the treaty. If certain requirements are satisfied, these committees have the authority to accept and review individual complaints. These complaints are a crucial instrument for bringing attention to particular problems and defending individual human rights.

Anyone who thinks a State party has violated their rights under any of the applicable conventions or covenants may submit a message to the relevant Committee, provided that the State party has accepted the Committee's power to receive such complaints. If an individual does not have the mental capacity to offer their written assent or a power of attorney has been executed, a third party, such as a non-governmental organization, may submit a complaint in their place. Individual complaints will only be considered if all other prerequisites have been met and all domestic remedies have been exhausted.

Iraq is not involved in any of the specific complaint processes under consideration. "The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee against Torture", two pertinent authorities, have the authority to launch investigations into any State party that exhibits flagrant or consistent breaches of the Conventions. States parties that have specifically reserved the Committee's jurisdiction in this area are not permitted to undertake investigations there. Confidentiality in the inquiry process is crucial, and the State party's cooperation must be ensured at all times. Confidential inquiries are permitted under both "article 20 of the CAT and article 8 of the OP to the Convention on the Elimination of AFDW". With the approval of the nation party in question, a visit may be made. Following review of the investigation's results, the Committee will forward the results to the relevant State organization and any remarks and suggestions it deems appropriate.

### **3- Early warning procedures and urgent measures**

The Committee for the ERD has created urgent and early warning systems since 1993. The goal of early warning systems is to stop disputes from starting again or from becoming worse within the States Parties. The goal of urgent measures is to deal with issues that need to be resolved right once in order to stop, lessen the severity of, or decrease the quantity of major breaches of the Convention. These two processes are often combined in practice. The Committee itself or interested parties like non-governmental organizations may carry out these processes.

### **4- General comments**

In the form of general remarks, each treaty body publishes their understandings of the human rights treaty's terms. The Committee on the EDW and the Committee on the ERD both use the phrase "general recommendations." General comments encompass a broad variety of constituents, from thorough interpretations of substantive provisions to general guidelines on the material that States parties should include in their reports on certain articles of the treaty. The goal of general comments is to give direction on how to implement the treaty. The general remarks and suggestions that the treaty bodies have adopted are gathered and updated on a regular basis.

### **The Second search**

**The second research is the work of the United Nations in Iraq (UNAMI) in the current circumstances.**

Al-Janabi points out that the role of the UNAMI mission, led by diplomat Hennis-Plasschaert, has been significantly enhanced since the popular demonstrations that Iraq witnessed in October 2019. This role was demonstrated through the intensification of political activities and meetings with various political blocs and parties with armed groups, based on the mission's legal mandate to participate in the political dialogue in the country.

UNAMI's interference in political affairs has also increased due to the political and constitutional blockade and the Federal Court's interpretations of the constitution that contradict the convictions of some political parties, in light of the stumbling block in forming the government. In the absenteeism of a binding Security Council determination obligating the government and political parties to take specific measures, UNAMI's work falls under the provision of advice and mediation. Al-Janabi believes that all accusations against the mission are against Iraq, which is requesting the renewal of its mission in the country, considering that these accusations have no legal basis.

On the other hand, some individuals see the United Nations mission in Iraq, as they put it, as part of the problem. They describe the role of this mission, especially in recent years, as negative. They consider the presence of the mission illegal and exceeding the country's sovereign right, pointing out that it was established in 2003 without a request from Iraq, which was under American occupation. They believe that the mission's tasks should have been canceled after the withdrawal of American forces and Iraq's exit from Chapter VII, which was imposed after the Second Gulf War in 1991.

In this context, some believe that UN missions are often established in countries suffering from political and security unrest, and they consider that UNAMI's role in Iraq is close to the concept of "international guardianship," especially after Iraq left the scope of international guardianship imposed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

On the other hand, some point out that the role of the UN Mission in Iraq has always been flawed and deficient. They express doubts about the effectiveness of the mission, pointing to suspicions of corruption and its impact on the neutrality of the mission's position on several issues, including human rights and the results of elections since 2003. They also believe that many internal files were not given the necessary attention by UNAMI, as the mission focused on only specific files.

They add that the UNAMI mission held limited meetings with representatives of the Foreign Relations Committee, while private matters with senior officials remain completely confidential, and then general statements are made without going into details.

There are two main reasons for extending the mission after 2003: the first is the international desire to expand the mission's scope due to the sectarian and political crises that Iraq witnessed between 2006 and 2008, and their impact on the formation of successive Iraqi governments. The second reason is the support of many political blocs and governments for the mission's continuation to dispel doubts about its future.

Some point out that "the mission follows up on reports from international organizations on human rights violations," which makes its continuation a form of diplomatic protection for Iraqi governments. They conclude by saying that it is not easy to transform the mission into a representative office given the political instability in Iraq, the lack of agreement on constitutional articles, the presence of weapons, and the interference of neighboring countries in Iraq's internal affairs.

### **Conclusions**

By studying the tasks of the UN in safeguarding human rights from 2014 to 2022, with a focus on Iraq as a model, we reached a set of results and recommendations, including:

1. UN human rights experts is critical in Iraq to achieve freedom from fear and poverty worldwide, yet they receive no salary or financial reward. Their reward is the satisfaction of working to enforce human rights, which are "the highest aspirations of humankind" as stated in the UDHR.
2. The resources available to the system are still far short of what is needed to achieve its full potential. The system is being strengthened in order to help it reach the objective of universal respect for all human rights. Collaboration between various players, particularly governments, UN agencies, and NGO, may significantly boost the system's efficacy.

We see that the regulations of IHR law depend on the existence of several bodies working in the field of protection.

1-The bodies working in the sector of promoting human rights are diverse, which sometimes leads to similar names without functional matching between them.

2-The shift from the "Human Rights Commission to the HRC was driven by global initiatives led by the UN and the HCHR, culminating in the creation of the Human Rights Council. A fundamental distinction between the new Council and the former Commission is the Council's direct association with the UN, bypassing the Economic and Social Council, and featuring equitable representation based on geographical divisions. This structure aims to foster communication and dialogue, broaden understanding among different civilizations and religious groups, and promote tolerance and religious freedom. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission continues its mission of overseeing and advocating for the rights outlined in the ICCPR".

3-It is necessary to raise global awareness of respect for the rules of international law involving the safeguard of human rights, both in terms of the activity and tasks of the relevant committees and the need to ratify and join the relevant treaties and agreements. It must be emphasized that accession should not be considered an attempt to improve the international image of the State with the prior intention of violating these treaties and agreements.

4-The Iraqi Constitution stipulates in Article 19/Twelve the prohibition of detention, and in Article 37/First/B that arrest or investigation may only be carried out by judicial order. However, many government decisions violate these rights, which necessitates the complete separation of executive and legislative authority.

5-There is a solid association between human rights and carrying weapons during internal armed conflicts, as some individuals feel injustice and oppression, which prompts them to use weapons to achieve their rights, which poses a major threat to society in general.

- 6- The executive authority does not show sufficient interest in human rights during internal armed conflicts, although the Iraqi constitution provides all guarantees to protect these rights.
- 7- The term armed conflict includes both conventional warfare and other situations of conflict not characterised by the concept of war.
- 8-International humanitarian regulation safeguards the right to life, ensuring individuals are not unjustly killed during internal armed conflicts. "Specifically, Common Article 3 of the four Geneva agreement forbids acts of violence against life and personal integrity, explicitly including all forms of murder.
- 9-During internal armed conflicts, one of the critical human rights is the right to life. It is regarded as one of the crucial rights that each and every person has only by virtue of his or her humanity. It is defined by unbreakable rules that cannot be broken..
- 10- The Iraqi Constitution prohibits the encroachment of any person's private property during an internal armed conflict except for purposes of the public interest in return for fair compensation. It also guarantees the right of every Iraqi to own property anywhere in Iraq, and prohibits ownership for the purposes of demographic change to avoid problems related to that.
- 11-Human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict in Iraq under the occupation authorities varied between killing, death threats, forced displacement, kidnapping, and attacks on churches and monasteries, which led to cases of migration and external asylum".
- 12- The internal conflict in Iraq, not classified as international, has resulted in ISIS attacking multiple ethnic and religious communities that advocate for human rights, perpetrating severe assaults and breaches of both human rights and intercontinental human rights law.

## References

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- 2- Article 130 stipulates that the legislation in force shall remain in force, unless repealed or amended, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 3- As of June (2006), there were 192 states parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 183 states parties to the Convention, 156 states parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and 153 states parties to the International Covenant on Economic Rights. Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and 170 states are party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
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- 19- Nowak M-( 2003), Introduction to the International human rights regime P73-138- Nartinus Nijhoff publishers Leiden Boston the RWI LIBRARY-volume 14 Lund Sweden
- 20- States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment may register their reservation when ratifying or acceding to the Treaty by issuing a declaration under Article 128. Likewise, States parties to the Optional Protocol supplementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women may It reserves the Committee's jurisdiction in this regard by issuing a declaration under Article 10, and any of the States that have reservations(2001) about accepting this procedure may decide to accept it at a later stage. Fact Sheet No. 17 United Nations Committee against Torture Hanif
- 21- The introduction to the United Nations Charter emphasized the importance and necessity of these rights, as does belief in basic human rights and in the dignity and worth of the individual. These rights are also affirmed in Articles 3-26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. see <https://scholarexpress.net/index.php/wbml/article/view/285>
- 22- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights does not explicitly provide for the establishment of a treaty body, but it provides a general mandate for the Economic and Social Council to monitor implementation. In (1985), a rotating working group that had been established by the Economic and Social Council to assist in the study of States parties' reports was reconstituted so that The group is similar in composition to the treaty bodies and its name was changed to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by Economic and Social Council Resolution 17/1985 on May 28, (1985). This committee, which held its first meeting in (1987), is considered a treaty body. see <https://www.tasnim-lb.org/index.php/ijhs/article/view/108>