



UPR 20, November 3, 2014  
Recommendations by Canada for Iraq's UPR

Question

In 2010, Iraq accepted two of Canada's recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty and the invitation of the Special Rapporteur on Torture to examine the situation in detention facilities in Iraq. Could the Delegation of Iraq inform us on the status of the review process and next steps in terms of implementation?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Iraq:

1. Continue reform of the Iraqi Armed Forces and Security Services in accordance with Article 9(1)a) of the Iraqi Constitution to include all components of the Iraqi people, creating a force which ensures security and stability for all individuals equally and throughout Iraq, thereby eliminating the need for the use of militias.
2. Strengthen the legal protection of ethnic and religious minorities by drafting new legislation enshrining protections provided for under Article 125 of the Iraqi Constitution, and amend the penal code to include stronger penalties against perpetrators who attack places of worship.
3. Withdraw the Jaafari law on personal status issues, passed by the Council of Ministers in February 2014, which would legalize child, early and forced marriage and violate the human rights of women and girls.

Observations (if time allows):

Canada supports the efforts of the Iraqi government to combat ISIL and is horrified by the egregious human rights abuses committed by ISIL, particularly against women and minority groups, since the beginning of the conflict.

Canada welcomes the formation of a new inclusive government in Iraq and its efforts to address human rights violations. We support Iraq's efforts to strengthen human rights protections, in particular religious freedoms and the rights of women. We are encouraged by the new Prime Minister's initiatives, in particular the decentralization of the powers of the Office of the Prime Minister's initiatives.