



Genocide Watch  
The Alliance Against Genocide

## Iraq Country Report October 2022

Citizens of Iraq have suffered from decades of war, genocide, brutal dictatorship, and political instability. Iraq remains divided by deep religious and ethnic schisms.

Iraq's [corrupt](#) government has continuously failed to meet the needs of Iraqi people, leading to protests with demands for a new government.

Iraq's security forces, [The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq \(KRG\)](#) and [Iranian backed militias](#) have targeted local activists, killing [475 journalists](#) since 2003. In 2019 anti-government protests, Iraqi security forces responded to protestors with [live ammunition and excessive use of force](#), killing [359 protestors and injuring 6,894](#) in 7 months. The Iraqi government has [not compensated the families of the victims or investigated](#) the perpetrators.

[19,000 people](#) have been detained for having ties to ISIS but no charges have been filed or trials held against many of them. Iraqi courts have [dismissed medical reports](#) showing evidence of torture-extracted confessions and [sentenced many detainees to death](#). Over 4000 prisoners are on death row. The [UN has reported that the ISIS trials are unfair and has urged](#) an end to mass executions.

ISIS remains a threat, with an estimate of 10,000 ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria. There has been an increase in ISIS attacks in Iraq, with [371 attacks](#) from mid-2021 to early 2022.

The [ISIS genocide of the Yazidi people](#) has left [200,000 Yazidi people still](#) displaced in Iraq. Both ISIS and Iraqi government forces have [targeted ethnic minorities](#) in Iraq, such as Armenians, Assyrians, Turkmen, Christians, Shabak, Kakai and Mandeans. There is a [lack of security for ethnic minorities](#). Many remain in displaced persons camps in Kurdistan and elsewhere.

Discrimination and dehumanization of women and LGBTQ+ individuals is common. Men are legally entitled to [beat their wives](#) and are [immune from prosecution for sexual assault](#) if they marry their victims. Women are subjected to [honor killings](#), with 45 victims in 2021 and 11 women by March of 2022 in Kurdistan alone.

Gangs [attack, torture, rape and kill LGBTQ+ individuals](#), and these crimes are [met with silence from the government](#). As of July 2022, [a law is even being proposed to criminalize homosexuality](#) in Iraq.

Genocide Watch considers Iraq to be at the stages of **Organization (5), Polarization (6), and Persecution (8)** of journalists and human rights advocates due to arrests, torture, and murders.

Due to culturally accepted honor killings, domestic violence, and threats to LGBTQ+ persons, Iraq is at stages **Discrimination (3), Dehumanization (4), and Persecution (8)** in its treatment of women and LGBTQ+ individuals.

### Genocide Watch recommends that:

- The UN, US, and European Union should invest heavily in resettling and supporting Yazidi and Christian survivors of the ISIS genocide.
- The UN should appoint a special representative with full staff to search for all 2,700 missing Yazidi people.
- Iraq's government and the KRG should hold perpetrators of the assaults on 2019 protesters accountable.
- Iraq should work with UNESCO and UNHCHR to develop protection measures for human right advocates.
- Iraqi legislators should criminalize domestic violence and work with the UN Development Funds for Women (UNIFEM) to develop safe shelters for women.
- Iraq should outlaw discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Judges in Iraq should enforce anti-torture laws and exclude trial evidence obtained through torture.
- The Iraq parliament should amend the Anti-Terrorism Law to make use of UNITAD case files an extenuating circumstance under Article 5 so that death sentences must be commuted to imprisonment.