Hammurabi Human Rights Organization

Half-year Report on Human Rights Violations in Iraq
1/1/2015 to 30/6/2015
The human rights violations committed against Iraqis during the first half of 2015 were not so different from those committed during the last six months of 2014, after the seizure of Mosul by ISIS terrorist groups on 10/6/2014. Their expansion gave ISIS control over large areas of the Nineveh Plain, Tal-Afar, Sinjar, Zumar, and other towns and villages in the province, in addition to parts of Salah Al-Din and Anbar provinces, where the worst human rights abuses occurred. Violations included kidnappings, mass killings, the abduction of women, sexual slavery and the destruction of vital public institutions, in addition to the destruction of civilian homes, cultural, archaeological and spiritual sites, and the demolition of monuments.

Generally, the tragedies that Iraqis suffered during the past six months primarily affected Iraqi minorities, including Yazidis, Christians, Shabak, Turkmen and Kaka’i. In order to be objective in recording the violations monitored during that period, we have decided to document them as follows:

Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons
• The situation of displaced Iraqis is traumatic in four ways. The first concerns the psychological effects and the negative and harsh environment resulting from their leaving their homes under threat from terrorist groups.
• The second relates to the general social and economic situation that IDPs find themselves in after displacement, a pressured situation they have never experienced before. Many are now living in enforced sociability, sharing services that are already fragile and in short supply. This means that most of these displaced families don’t have true privacy or independence, as they are having to share camps, incomplete buildings, public places or the surroundings of religious sites or buildings.
• The third aspect of the trauma relates to the present obstacles to the possibility of the IDPs returning to their homes, with many variations and contradictions in the information provided by the media and politicians regarding the chances of ridding their home areas of all ISIS militants, enabling their return. IDPs also fear that if they do return, they may be subject to extortion under the pressure of big
political blocs in the context of what are known as disputed areas. They also have fears regarding the fluctuation of the general international position on this matter, and the ongoing political and security tension between the regional and central governments.

- The fourth, and most important, aspect has to do with the weakness of vision and common national desire, as a result of political disagreements and inconsistencies, on a unified mechanism to liberate the areas controlled by ISIS, especially the areas of Sinjar and the Nineveh Plain. It is this loss of confidence in political decision-makers that for IDPs has promoted the idea of leaving Iraq, migrating to neighboring countries and settling in the diaspora.

- Hammurabi Human Rights Organization received information from its sources that at 2 a.m. on Monday night, 25/5/2015, Asayish forces were present in the street of Mart Shmoni Church in Ankawa/Erbil, where they arrested two Christian IDPs from areas in the Nineveh Plain. However, within half an hour they were released. After that, they took the Annual Vehicle Registration Licenses of the cars that were parked there and the IDs of the drivers, and they attacked the cars with Nineveh numbers on their license plates, which belonged to Christians. The forces let the air out of the tires of the parked cars and then went to some copying shops whose owners were selling cigarettes, and took their IDs before leaving the area. Among these people were Imad, Salam, Nashwan Kajo, Sabah and Isam. The sources told HHRO that the Asayish forces came in “two pick-up cars and a military car, carrying about 16 Asayish members, under the leadership of their manager Sarmad Jalal, who was screaming at them with curses in Kurdish”.

At 10 a.m. the next day, Tuesday 26/5/2015, another group of Asayish members visited the same area and assaulted Salam Adel Yalda. He was arrested for a full day on charges of cursing the people of Ankawa. They assaulted him in front of everyone there and took him to their headquarters, but later it turned out, according to witnesses, that the charges were false.
There aren’t exact numbers for the IDPs from Mosul, Nineveh Plain, Sinjar and Tal-Afar; nor are there figures for the displaced from Diyala, Salah Al-Din and Anbar, because many families have reached other cities without being registered as IDPs. However, Hammurabi Human Rights Organization estimates the number of Iraqi IDPs at 2.9 million, including approximately 400,000, Yazidi IDPs, most of them in the Kurdistan Region, with a considerable number – about 20,000 – in Turkey. There are more than 200,000 Christians scattered between the cities of the KRG, Baghdad, neighboring countries and Lebanon, and approximately 150,000 Shabak IDPs, most of them having moved to southern Iraq. There are about 300,000 Turkmen IDPs in the KRG, and according to HHRO’s information the number of Sunni IDPs who have reached the KRG is approximately half a million, while others are scattered in the cities of Baghdad, Karbala, Hillah and other cities.

Many recognized mental illnesses such as psychosis, depression and anxiety, as well as general frustration, are common daily occurrences in the camps. Hammurabi Human Rights Organization has documented many such instances, including cases of displaced survivors who have escaped imprisonment and detention at the hands of the terrorists. Most of those psychologically affected are traumatized women and children, especially girls and women who have been sold and raped but managed to escape. There are about 2,000 of these survivors, including boys, girls, women and men.

The conditions IDPs have to endure daily sometimes cause cases of depression, which can promote thoughts of suicide. Four such cases among Yazidis were recorded in the province of Dohuk.

The HHRO field team, which has visited most of the IDP camps, was aware of a marked decline in the incidence of pregnancy and childbirth among women. There are many reasons for this, some of them psychological and physical, and others related to couples’ unwillingness to have children due to their living conditions, which would make it unbearably difficult to care
and provide for a new child, on top of the existing demands of everyday life.

• Family break-up is another problem arising among IDPs. New families complain about their difficult economic situation, as they are not included in the Iraqi Government’s one million dinar grant from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement to IDPs from the center of Mosul governorate. The grant covers only IDPs from Mosul whose marriage certificates are dated prior to 10/6/2014, and IDPs from the Nineveh Plain with marriage certificates dated prior to 6/8/2014. In general, separation and divorce occur in many displaced families as a result of economic and psychological pressure. Hammurabi is working to monitor and record these cases in order to issue subsequent reports on the matter. It has compiled a list of more than 300 instances of this problem, which it has submitted to the office of the Prime Minister to follow up in order to find a solution.

• There are now 16 IDP camps in Dohuk, 4 camps in Erbil, and one camp in Sulaymaniyah. All internally displaced persons living in these areas are now in either rented or prefabricated homes (caravans). More than 1,000 families are recorded as having returned to Tikrit after its liberation.

• From its field visits, HHRO’s IDP monitoring team has been able to confirm a clear decline in aid and relief being provided to IDPs. There are needs that have emerged during the summer, especially with the spread of mosquitoes: malaria, diseases of the digestive system, skin diseases, and diseases that had been eradicated but have re-emerged, such as scabies and leishmaniasis, mostly among children.

• HHRO has recorded considerable concern among displaced families regarding the education of their sons and daughters, especially among displaced Christians and Yazidis whose children have quit studying even in the temporary schools created for them (in tents, houses or caravans) in some of the cities they have been displaced to, because the educational environment they were experiencing was different from what they were used to.
• We have been told by reliable sources that Yazidi refugee camps in Turkey are now like real prisons, with the camps subject to tight security measures and the refugees only allowed to leave the camp by going through very complex security procedures. Refugees are stripped of their communication devices (mobile phones, personal computers) and communications via the Internet are blocked. The refugees are also subject to the daily misery of a lack of public services.

According to the latest information provided to HHRO, a state of discontent and bitterness has started to dominate the lives of these refugees in Nusaybin, Midyat, Diyarbakir, Batman and Shernakh camps, leading some to migrate on foot or by bus to Bulgarian territory. On 27/6/2015 more than 1,500 refugees left, a figure expected to rise to 12,000 refugees departing during the last week of June 2015. One of these refugees attempted suicide by hanging himself as a result of depression, but other refugees saved him.

Two buses carrying refugees, mostly women and children, reached the city of Edirne. They were stopped by Turkish security forces who prevented them from leaving to Bulgaria on 27/6/2015. The fate of others who left these camps is unknown. According to reliable information, relief staff of the United Nations are facing difficulties in providing relief for these refugees or compiling a database of information about them. Most of the refugees in these camps complain of isolation from the outside world, and humanitarian relief or human rights organization visits rarely occur without the intervention of Turkish authorities.

• HHRO has received documented information regarding mismanagement of Al-Qadia IDP camp in Zakho. According to a report that deals with conditions at the camp, the camp administration is indifferent to the inhabitants’ situation and their humanitarian needs for water and electricity. Water stoppages reportedly continue for hours, causing shortages of water for the approximately 4,000 IDPs in the camp, including many survivors of abuse and their families. Electricity outages occur at the time of greatest need (the afternoon) and can last for up to three hours, adding to the difficult conditions the IDPs have to endure. Notably, this is a caravancamp, and caravans can become severely
overheated because they do not have any heat insulation and so are not suited to the Iraqi climate, with its dry heat in summer.

- Qassem Falah Hassan, a three-year-old IDP in Sharia camp, was exposed to a serious skin disease called pemphigus as a result of the widespread pollution in the camp and in IDP camps in general. It is likely that this disease will spread among other children.

Violations against Christians

- The kidnapping of Dr Bashar Ghanem Akrawi on 20/6/2015, freed by security forces and Baghdad forces at dawn on 21/6/2015. Our sources reported that he had been subject to beating and torture during his abduction.
- The body of Qais Abd Shaya was found in the forensic center in Baghdad on 1/7/2015. The victim was kidnapped in front of his home in Al-Ghadeer district. After more than a week the kidnappers called his parents demanding a $25,000 ransom. With a great deal of trouble the parents managed to collect the money and gave it to the kidnappers hoping to free their son, but after a long wait they visited the forensic center in Baghdad where they found their son’s body.

Note that Qais owned a liquor store in Al-Wihda neighborhood in Baghdad and has a family and children.

- On 7/5/2015 Joliana George, a 16-year-old girl, was kidnapped from her home in Al-Nairiya/Baghdad-Al-Jadedah after gunmen broke into her house, where she was with her mother and grandfather. Joliana was transferred to an unknown destination, and her mother was subjected to beating and threatened with death when she tried to resist them taking her daughter. The father called the security forces, who reported that the target was on the move and needed following. The girl was freed on Thursday, 14/5/2015. When HHRO visited the family in their home, her father stated that Juliana was suffering from mental disorder due to the recent incident. Other information reported that security forces arrested the owner of the taxi used in the kidnapping, who denied any knowledge of the names of the perpetrators, indicating that they had hired him from the street. We in HHRO believe that the girl was freed after payment of a ransom, but her family didn’t refer to such a thing.
Six Christians (Sorden SamerAbd Kasko, Robert Khalid Sulieman Jacob, Carlos HazimSolaqa Fattoh, SaadSalimSamaan Hanna, Mathios Najeb Isaac Matte and Tony Hanna Isaac Hanna) were arrested at Erbil checkpoint on 30/3/2015 while traveling from Baghdad to Erbil to participate in Easter celebrations with their parents. Sources reported that they were arrested for being Popular Mobilization Units (Al-Hashed Al-Shaabi) volunteers within the Shiite factions in Baghdad. The security authorities justified the arrest by accusing them of arms dealing, and although the court acquitted the detainees, they have yet to be released.

Christian students displaced as a result of the occupation of Nineveh province by ISIS terrorists continue to suffer many problems. Universities in Kurdistan have opened their doors to them, but administrative and educational barriers have emerged, including differences in the curriculum and in the materials studied, and the absence of similar sections in the universities of the Region, forcing students to delay their academic year or move between provinces to continue studying. These problems were highlighted by students of the faculties of medicine and engineering, where some of them moved to Baghdad or Kirkuk and others abandoned their year’s study indefinitely. Further problems facing students are the higher prices of necessities in Kurdistan Region compared with their home areas, as well as the high cost of renting houses and apartments and private transportation fees, all of which put financial pressure on displaced families that live far away from the students’ universities and colleges, as a result of the abnormal influx to the Region of displaced Iraqis of all religions and ethnicities and the significant shortage of university housing.

Violations against Yazidis

On 10/5/2015 MosaKhoder Tammo, a Yazidi citizen born in 1995, was assassinated while at Talon Security Company in Sulaymaniyah, where he worked as a guard. It looks like the offenders used rocks to kill him and then shot him with a gun. It also seems they entered the company by the main door, because the company is protected by barbed wire. According to information received by HHRO, the victim was an IDP from SybaShikhadre area in Sinjar district, which he had to leave before an ISIS attack. It appears from the
monitoring process that the victim was thinking of quitting his job after a series of harassments. The victim had spoken about crimes committed by ISIS in front of workers of the company days before he was killed. After further investigation HHRO found out that Sulaymaniyah governorate had arrested a number of suspects.

- On Monday morning, 4/5/2015, Ms Amal Hussein, 22 years old, from Rambosy village, who graduated from a nursing school last year and became a nurse in Sharia hospital, committed suicide because she couldn’t stand what her people (the Yazidis) were suffering.
- On Sunday morning, 5/4/2015, members of Zakho Asayish forces arrested the Yazidi activist Khairi Ali Ibrahim, a volunteer with the Yazidi Center for Documentation for the Initiative for Ezidis Around the World, after he published pictures of the manager of the camp (Al-Qadia) talking about corruption in the distribution of caravans by the manager. He was transferred to Sumel Asayish office. Also, during the evening of the same day, Asayish forces arrested Haidar Shasho (a member of the Yazidi resistance) from his home in Khanke village. Hammurabi learned that he was released after interventions by other Kurdish forces. Yazidi activists claim he was released after signing a pledge not to carry out any armed activities against ISIS other than under the supervision of the Peshmerga leadership.
- The HHRO team made several visits to the residents of Sinjar that confirmed the lack of food and medicine, and also a lack of specialist medical staff and a clear lack of fuel. HHRO also received information that there is patent corruption in managing the aid that reaches the area, where it is distributed according to personal relations and partisan interests.
- On 27/4/2015, ISIS in Tal-Afar separated the men and boys over the age of 12 from the women and younger children. Our sources stated that 150 people were killed in Al-Huda mosque; more people were killed near the electricity station in the city; another group of people were killed in a valley know as Tal-Antar; and another group was killed in Al-Farouq mosque.
- Yazidi activists told HHRO that members of the Asayish assaulted Yazidi protesters who left their tents at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 23/3/2015, with sticks and cables. They beat the protesters severely, and hundreds of them were arrested and taken to the Asayish department in Zakho. The sources also stated that orders
were issued by the Asayish of Zakho that no one, including the sick, should be allowed to leave or enter these camps, such as Gamishko camp.

The Yazidi demonstrations and protests in Zakho, Sheikhan and Akra coincided with similar events in Brussels, the capital of Belgium, in front of the headquarters of the European Union, demanding the liberation of Yazidi areas from ISIS terrorists and calling what has happened to the Yazidis genocide.

• On 23/2/2015, the Asayish imposed a penalty of banning the students of Ashti Intermediate School for IDPs from attending school for three days because of a conflict arising out of a dispute during a soccer game between Arab and Kurdish students.

• Yazidi sources have told HHRO that Asayish forces in Zakho arrested the Yazidi activist Shammo Morad Baker, a 29-year-old IDP who travels between IDP camps in Turkey and Zakho camp, while he was passing through a military checkpoint at Ibrahim Khalil border post, and he is still under arrest.

He is known as an activist who documents violations on his Facebook page. HHRO appealed to the security authorities to release him if he has not been found guilty of any offence. Meanwhile, the Yazidi Center for Documentation has warned of the resumption of arrests targeting Yazidi activists in Zakho and Dohuk camps.

Violations against Kaka’i

• HHRO estimates the number of Kaka’i IDPs from Nineveh Plain at 11,000, based on information from a volunteer monitor who is a member of this group.

These families were displaced from the center of Mosul province, where 100 Kaka’i families used to live, and 150 families from Hamdania district center and Bartella sub-district.

Also, all the Kaka’i families from the villages of Wardak, Tal-Laban, Kazhakan and Majidia were displaced, and are now scattered between Kalak, Badarroush, Khabat, Kaznazan and Maharka; Ankawa and Kawisanjaq complexes; the villages of Safiya and Zankal; and the center of Kirkuk. There are also a number of them in villages on the
outskirts of Daqooq, Razkari complex, Arab-Kobi, Ali-Saray, Zangar and Said-Wali village, and there are still Kaka’i families in Tobzawa village. Kaka’i IDPs suffer many tragedies and problems, in the same way as other IDPs. HHRO sources report that a number of Kaka’i are missing, HHRO reserves the right to keep their names confidential to avoid risk to their lives.

Violations against Feyli Kurds

• On the occasion of World Refugee Day, celebrated by the United Nations on 6 June each year, the Supreme National Front for the Feyli Kurds issued a statement noting the persistence of many violations against Iraqi minorities. Most of these violations are inherited from the previous regime through several unfair laws targeting their existence and property and causing the banishment of more than half a million Iraqi Feylis outside the country; the forced disappearances of more than 23,000 Feyli youth; the confiscation of property and all human rights; and also the conducting of biological and chemical experiments on detainees.

According to HHRO information, some issues concerning the rights of Feylis remain unresolved because they require the abolition of laws, legislation and regulations issued during the rule of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi Feylis demand that what has happened to them should be seen as genocide, especially after the ruling of the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Court on 29/11/2010, which was ratified by the Appeals Court. The Supreme National Front for the Feyli Kurds has renewed its request to the Iraqi government to join the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

HHRO has been told by Feyli activists that there is clearly weakness and a lack of action in government departments to address the rights of Feyli Iraqis regarding property and citizenship.

Violations against Shabak
On Saturday morning, 11/5/2015, an armed group attacked a number of cargo trucks in Al-Maqdadiya district, Diyala province. During the attack the driver of one of the trucks, a Shabak Iraqi citizen, Abd Allah Hussein, a resident of Al-Mowafiqia village in Nineveh Plain, was kidnapped. His body was found a day later in an area of Al-Maqdadiya.

HHRO has been monitoring the conditions of Shabak since the occupation of Nineveh Province by ISIS terrorists. It has found that dozens have been killed by ISIS terrorists and also stripped of all their belongings, and many have had to escape and take refuge in central and southern Iraq.

Violations against Sabean-Mandaeans

A.K., a Mandaean who worked as a goldsmith in Baghdad, received a blackmail message by phone demanding he pay $2,500 or else he would have a fatal accident. A.K. was forced to sell his shop cheaply and emigrate to another province. HHRO’s violation monitoring team has documented information on the case.

An unidentified armed group attacked the youth Wasfi Abd Al-Ghani, who worked as a goldsmith in a big shop related to Maysan province. They shot him and killed him, and all the gold was stolen. This crime took place in broad daylight, yet the perpetrators were recorded as ‘anonymous’.

The house of Abdel Karim Nashi was raided in the middle of the night by a group of young men from the area. He was a 70-year-old Mandaean living in Al-Turath neighborhood in Baghdad with his only daughter, who is 32 years old and mentally unbalanced. The perpetrators tried to rape her, but they couldn’t get her.

A citizen called Abd Al-Karim told the police he knew one of the perpetrators, leading to one of the perpetrators being detained, as a result of which Abd Al-Karim was assaulted in his house by an armed group that severely hurt him and made threats that he should leave.

Athier Abd Al-Qadir, 43, worked as a goldsmith in Allawi Al-Hillah area in Baghdad. According to the confession of the offender, the victim answered a phone call at 1 p.m. to receive 30 million Iraqi dinars the offender owed him, and subsequently headed to an apartment near his place of work. When he arrived he was killed and his facial features were distorted by having acid sprayed on his face, then he was put in a plastic water tank. After 3 p.m. he was taken out of the apartment and dumped in Al-Shalijiah Hayakel area,
from where he was transferred by two tinted-window four wheel drive cars. Two officers with the rank of lieutenant were present, according to the confession of the offender. Until now 12 members of the gang have been caught.

As a result of the police investigation, the gang members confessed to breaking into the shop of goldsmith Mohannad al-Othmani, a Mandaean in Al-Ileam neighborhood and stealing all his gold in 2014.

- Hussam Naji Sawadi, a goldsmith in his twenties living in Maysan city, was persuaded by a friend to participate in a gold jewelry trade, so he carried with him an amount of money and used his car to go. His parents knew their son was going with his trusted friend to carry out a buying operation, but next day they were told that their son had been kidnapped and a 40 thousand dollar ransom was being demanded. The ransom was paid, but to no avail, because two months later he was found dead near the Iraqi-Iranian border. According to the forensic report he was killed on the same day he went with his friend. The parents of the victim say it was his friend who killed him, and the killer is still free.

- Two Mandaean youths were kidnapped on the main road to Al-Khalis city. An armed group led them to an unknown location then called their parents demanding $250,000 for each of them. After the ransom was paid they were released, and the incident was recorded with an anonymous perpetrator.

- HHRO received information from one of its monitoring volunteers that a number of Mandaean citizens who work as goldsmiths in neighborhoods in Baghdad including Al-Shorta were subjected to threats, blackmail and efforts to extort money from them by people claiming to be a part of an armed militia. We are continuing to follow this issue, in order to obtain full information.

- Al-Shorta Al-Rabiya neighborhood market has witnessed the emigration of many Mandaean citizens. The neighborhood used to have 14 goldsmith shops and now only 7 remain as a result of threats and recurring blackmail.

Violations against Black People

- On 7/6/2015 a citizen called Abd Allah Matar was shot dead. He was taken to Abu Al-Khosaib area with his car and killed there. The incident was recorded with an anonymous perpetrator.
HHRO has received from its monitoring volunteers in Basrah the following information:

- On 6/6/2015 Kazem Abd Al-Geel, a resident of Zubayr district, was stabbed to death. According to the latest information, foursuspects have been detained and the investigation is ongoing.
- On 6/3/2015 Marwan Majid Al-Shawi was killed in Abu Al-Khasib district. The incident was recorded with an anonymousperpetrator. According to the criminal evidence uncovered the victim was shot dead.
- HHRO has received information that Ms Om Mahdi Mohammad Jasem is suffering total paralysis because of the violations of her family’s rights that have occurred since 2003, when her house was raided by British forces claiming that the family was loyal to the previous regime, and her son Mahdi was killed.

**Human Rights Violations in Other Areas of Iraq**

- HHRO has received complaints from dozens of Iraqi families reporting the disappearance of their sons in Baghdad and Salah Al-Din whose fates they have not been able to determine until now. Some of these families claim that armed groups arrested them. HHRO has approached human rights and government agencies seeking information about their fates, and supplied the names of a number of these disappeared citizens.
- HHRO has also received written complaints from citizens whose homes were blown up and destroyed by armed groups in JurfSakhar and Alexandria in Babil province, as well as in Salah Al-Din province.

**Other Violations**

From time to time, Hammurabi Human Rights Organization monitors violations highlightingdiscrimination and differentiation between citizens in matters such as employment, social and other rights. Such discrimination and differentiation are obvious examples of unjust marginalization and exclusion, which suggests that this type of policy continues to prevail.

One example that HHRO pursued and was able to fully document is the case of citizen Alex Warkisi, who was dismissed from his job [as financial adviser to the Council of Representatives] and stripped of his grade on dubious grounds on the last day of the parliamentary session chaired by Mr Iyad al-Samarrai. As a result of his demands for
his rights, during the next parliamentary session the new chair, Mr Osama al-Nujayfi, formed an investigative committee from the Council of Representatives which made fair recommendations concerning this citizen’s rights, though they have not been implemented yet.

Alex Warkisi says the current president of Parliament, Dr Salim al-Jabouri, has asked for him to be reinstated, but he has not fulfilled his promise, for reasons unknown, even though the investigating committee formed by Mr Nujayfi addressed the issue fairly and showed that the decisions made against him indicate the extent of the prejudice that exists and the way systems and laws are being overtaken. The committee raised the following points:

• The judgment of ‘lack of need and benefit’ contradicted the competence assessment of Alex Warkisi.
• The position of Security Advisor is an established position in the organizational structure of the Parliament, and abolition of this position is contrary to Article 9/6 of the board’s internal regulations.
• Adnan Abdel Aziz, who was appointed as financial advisor to the Council in place of Alex Warkisi, holds a bachelor’s degree in management and economics, and Alex Warkisi also holds the same degree. Why was Mr Warkisi dismissed for lack of need and benefit and then replaced by someone else with the same qualification?
• The exemption order was issued on 15/3/2010, which was the last day of work of the House of Representatives in the electoral cycle, meaning that the powers of the president of the House of Representatives and his deputies would expire at the end of official working hours on that day. Why, then, was Mr Warkisi dismissed on the last day of work of the board and not before that?
• The procedures for appointment, dismissal, transfer, retirement and discipline of the staff of the House of Representatives, including the chief of staff, advisers and general directors, must follow the principle of balance as stipulated in paragraph (a) of Article 9/12 of the Internal Regulations.
• The administrative order No. 429 of 15/3/2010 only relieves Mr Warkisi of the tasks of his position and not of his grade, and therefore he should keep his grade (advisor).
• The exemption decision contravened the law. It was not covered by Civil Service Act No. 24 of 1960, amended, or the State Employees Discipline Act No. 14 of 1991.
• The administrative order No. 429 of 15/3/2010 containing the exemption was signed on 24/1/2010 but issued only on 15/3/2010, a month and a half later, which means that the intention to issue the exemption order was there on 15/3/2010.

• HHRO has received information about attacks by armed men on 4/5/2015 against 5 shops selling liquor in Bab Al-Moatham and Al-Mustansiriya Street, in Al-Rasafa in Baghdad and Allawi Al-Hillah in Al-Karkh, in which they killed 7 workers in these shops including 4 Yazidis, 2 Muslims and 1 Christian, most of them IDPs from Nineveh and Sinjar.

Vandalism and Destruction of Religious Buildings Belonging to Minorities
• On 19/3/2015, four Husseiniyahs of Shiite Shabak were bombed, three of them in Hamdania district (Imam Ali, Al-Zahraa’, Al-Sadrain) in Manarat-Shabak village, and the big Husseiniyah of Zaynab in Bashbita village was also bombed by ISIS terrorists.
• On 19/3/2015, the ancient monastery and seventh-century archaeological site of Al-Jib was bombed. The site is inside the area of the monastery of the Saints Behnam and Sarah in Nimrud District.
• On 2/3/2015 ISIS terrorists razed a Christian cemetery dating back to the year 1900 built on an archaeological mound in the district of Tal-Kayf.
• The Assyrian monuments of Nimrud on the Nineveh Plain were razed and destroyed in the first week of March by ISIS terrorists. These monuments and ruins date back to the days of the Assyrian Era, when Nimrud was one of the capitals of the Assyrian Empire, A week before that ISIS terrorists broke artifacts in the museum of Mosul.
• ISIS terrorists used pickaxes to remove the crosses from a number of churches in Mosul and turned them into mosques, including the Syriac-Orthodox church of Al-Tahira in Al-Shefaa’ neighborhood in Mosul. Historians point out that Al-Tahira Church is an old and ancient church, though the history of its establishment is unknown. It is located on the western side of Mosul, in the relatively small Bab al-Emadi area.
• ISIS terrorists have been using churches’ furnishings, including wooden benches, and distributing them in public places and at checkpoints.
During the first six months of 2015, ISIS terrorists attacked and bombed Yazidi pilgrimage sites. HHRO has learned through reliable monitoring processes of the following:
• Bombing of both Nasir Din and Al-Saeed shrines during February in Ba’ashiqah.
• Destruction of the shrine of Baba Yadgar Alkaka’i in the Tal-Laban area.
• Bombing and destruction of the shrine of Baba Haidar Alkaka’i in Kazhakan village.
• Razing and sabotaging of the cemetery of Saeed Ahmad Abo Yaser in Wardak village, which is a Kaka’i cemetery located at the meeting point of the Zaband Al-Khazer rivers on a high mountain peak.

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