



**Response to the Call for Input
for the
Special Rapporteur on minority issues
In preparation for his country visit to Iraq, 15-23 June 2025
and**

His presentation to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2026

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
Abolition Death Penalty of Iraq Organization
and
The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

Abolition Death Penalty in Iraq Organization is a non-governmental organization that has been fighting since 2010 to abolish the death penalty in law and application in Iraq. It struggles to stop torture and use international and humanitarian standards in the judiciary and courts. It is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty at the global level for a world free of the death penalty. In Iraq, it conducts field visits to prisons, organizes educational seminars and organizes demonstrations against executions and violations of the rights of detainees, and contacts anti-execution organizations and figures, judges, lawyers, parliamentarians, and activists against the death penalty to build a broad front to end the death penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a volunteer-based non-government organization committed to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition. The

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is committed to making visible gender and intersectional discrimination at work in capital punishment as well as to strengthen the protection of women and gender and sexual minorities facing the death penalty.

1. This response to the Call for Input provides information in response to Issue Area 4, concerning access to justice and the administration of criminal justice. The coauthors warmly welcome the Special Rapporteur's request that Iraqi authorities provide updated information regarding minorities in the criminal justice and correctional system, and they urge the Special Rapporteur to seek out specific disaggregated data regarding people under sentence of death and people who have been executed over the last five years. Gender disaggregation is particularly important to assist civil society in better understanding the gender dimensions of the death penalty in Iraq.
2. In July 2024, the coauthors submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to assist the Committee in preparing its List of Themes for its 113th session. The report focused on Iraq's compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, particularly with respect to the death penalty. The full report is attached as Annex 1.
3. The report describes how Iraqi authorities have pursued charges against foreign nationals and children of foreign nationals for vaguely defined terrorism-related offenses arising out of alleged affiliations with Daesh. Legal proceedings do not respect fair trial rights.
4. Moreover, as the report describes, regions of Iraq with large populations of members of ethnic minority groups have disproportionate numbers of people under sentence of death.
5. The report further observes that many women foreign nationals are under sentence of death in Iraq, in some cases because their spouses had coerced them into entering Daesh-controlled territory, for example. Women foreign nationals can face intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly when they are in conflict with the law. In January 2025, the coauthors submitted a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women regarding women in conflict with the law and under sentence of death in Iraq. The full report is attached as Annex 2.
6. The report in Annex 1 also provides information about Iraqi authorities' failure to protect members of the LGBTIQ+ community for violence and discrimination and failure to hold perpetrators accountable.
7. The coauthors urge the Special Rapporteur during his country visit to consult privately with attorneys who have represented foreign nationals under sentence of death and embassies that have provided consular assistance to such foreign nationals, as well as to conduct visits to detention facilities to speak directly and privately with members of ethnic minority groups and foreign nationals who are under sentence of death, including women. Little is known about their legal proceedings or their conditions of detention. Shedding light on their cases will assist the international community in exerting pressure on Iraqi authorities to work toward abolition of the death penalty.
8. The coauthors hereby incorporate by reference the suggested questions and recommendations in the reports attached hereto as Annex 1 and 2.