



Iraqi Women in Armed Conflict & post-Conflict Situation NGO's Coalition of CEDAW Shadow Report

on the application of the Convention on the Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Iraq

Iraqi women's network of NGOs, in cooperation with the Iraqi Women Journalist's Forum, on February 5th, Baghdad, held a press conference to release the first shadow report on Iraq, in compliance with the convention (CEDAW). The report covers the period of the past decade and before on Iraqi women status under armed and post conflict. This is the first shadow report submitted by civil society organizations to the CEDAW Committee since Iraq signed the convention in 1986.

The process of preparations for the report took more than a year, dozens of NGOs from different parts of Iraq participated in the preparation of the report on voluntary and participatory basis, including Iraqi Women Network (more than 80 organizations) and the Coalition of Al Rafidain Women (5 organizations) , and the Gathering of : No To Violence Against Women in Kirkuk (more than 22 organizations) The Chapters of the report were based on what was stated in the government's report, and on the conclusion notes of the CEDAW Committee in 1998, regarding the last government's report submitted to it..

The report focuses on the assessment of the situation of Iraqi women in armed conflict and post-conflict, where covers several topics, including: **the National legislations response to the Convention (CEDAW), violence against women in Iraqi society, and trafficking in women and prostitution, personal and marital relations, and women in political participation, and the situation of displaced women and the detainees, and minority women, widows, women with disabilities and rural women.**

It also provides an evaluation of laws and regulations, mechanisms based on reality and governmental measures, identifying the weaknesses causing the widening gap of gender inequality. At the same time, highlighting CSOs activity in monitoring, control and advocacy campaigns carried out concerning Iraq's commitment to international conventions, in particular CEDAW and SCR 1325 on women, peace and security. The report also contains the recommendations proposed to (CEDAW) Committee on its new concluding observations, which will be issued after the 57th CEDAW Session, where Iraqi Government report will be discussed on 18 February.

The report identifies future trends of CSOs to achieve equal rights in legislation and in practice, equal opportunities and non discriminatory measures and laws, and empower women educationally, politically and economically, ensure the rule of law and the integrity of the institutions of Justice and enforcement of law, to build a democratic system and sustainable development based on citizenship, tolerance and respect for human rights.

Baghdad February 5th, 2014,

Below is Iraq shadow report link/website of CEDAW Committee in Geneva:
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fNGO%2fIROQ%2f16192&Lang=en