



شبكة رصد حقوق الانسان في العراق

APPEAL AGAINST ELECTING THE OCCUPIED IRAQ TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

By
Monitoring Network of Human Rights in Iraq

**Do not bring shame and hypocrisy
to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its first session by electing the Iraqi
regime, established under foreign occupation, to the Human Rights Council**

As representatives of Iraqi civil society and Human Rights defenders we are deeply concerned over the attempt by the Iraqi regime to be elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council at the UN General Assembly on May 9, 2006 which could do great harm to the credibility of the United Nations.

We wish to see an Iraq free from occupation play an important role in the United Nations. The Iraqi state became a founder member of the United Nations as an independent state and not as an occupied country with nearly 200 000 foreign soldiers on its soil and a never ending occupation war.

The current Iraqi regime is part of the occupation. It is in its core power structure a continuation of the Governing Council directly installed by the occupier after the invasion. Its key power holders are the political parties with the largest militias who terrorize the people and are responsible for horrendous human rights violations in collusion with the security forces trained by the occupier.

The foreign occupation of Iraq is also part of the current Iraqi regime as the legal fig leaf for its presence in Iraq is a request by the regime to the occupier to stay in Iraq against the wish of the overwhelming majority of the people of Iraq. The regime seeking election to the Human Rights Council because of this also bear responsibility for the well documented crimes committed by the occupation forces.

The gross and systematic violations of Human Rights in Iraq by the regime and the occupier has been confirmed in reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, statements by several of the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and indeed in the reports of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The recent UNAMI Human Rights Reports makes extensive reference to the death squads of the militias and the Ministry of the Interior: **"regarding the actions of some segments of the security forces, in particular the police and special forces, and their apparent collusion with militias in carrying out human rights violations."** The reports refers to militia elements joining the security forces and forming clandestine parallel structures and



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retaining their original loyalties or affiliations. UNAMI report (Jan.-Feb. 2006) on the numerous cases of summary executions and torture by government parties linked militias:

"The same methods of execution-style killings are usually used: mass arrests without judicial warrant and extrajudicial executions with bodies found afterwards bearing signs of torture and killed by a shot to the head. Such extrajudicial executions are further fuelling sectarian tensions."

Indeed there exist a massive volume of documentation from Iraqi civil society and international human rights NGO sources on the gross and systematic violations of practically every aspect of human rights norms in Iraq.

Iraq today certainly is not a country which meets the criteria of the resolution establishing the UN Human Rights Council that "members elected to the council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights." The situation, in Iraq, is the very opposite. What is mentioned in UNAMI reports represents only a small part of the daily grave human rights violations committed by the security forces of the interior ministry and the main parties' militias. Those parties are the dominant of the political life in Iraq in the next four years.

A major reason for creating the Human Rights Council was the assertion by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that countries have sought election to the old Commission on Human Rights not to advance Human Rights but instead to protect themselves from criticism by others. The Iraqi regime certainly seeks election exactly to suppress active United Nations monitoring and condemnation of the gross Human Rights violations in Iraq. Election of Iraq would be a further unacceptable obstacle to the international scrutiny of Human Rights in Iraq.

Electing Iraq to the UN Human Rights Council will make peace in Iraq more difficult as we believe that the time has come for new initiatives by the United Nations for a political solution to the Iraqi situation based on the past principles of the United Nations for ending conflicts and involving the complete withdrawal of the coalition forces, dismantling of militias and holding of genuine elections under UN supervision in an Iraq free from occupation.

We direct an appeal to all Member States of the United Nations that wish to have a credible Human Rights Council not to vote for the representation of the current Iraqi regime in the Human Rights Council. We call on activists for human rights and peace, to raise their voice in support of our call.

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