

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN IRAQ**  
**THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE**  
**– REAL AND PERCEIVED –**  
**ON THE LIVES OF WOMEN, GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS IN IRAQ**



*IRIN*

Women in Iraq today seem driven not by the expectation of improving their status but by the determination to hold on to what rights they have in the face of growing insecurity, violence, religious fundamentalism and economic hardship... [Women] have largely been unable to capitalize on this position to improve women's daily lives due to a lack of political will to place women in positions of leadership or to include them in fundamental decision making processes.

<sup>1</sup>The Status of Women in Iraq: Update to the Assessment of Iraq's *De Jure* and *De Facto* Compliance with International Legal Standards, American Bar Association and Iraq Legal Development Project, Dec. 2006: p. 1

	Page
▪ Purpose of the Report	3
▪ Introduction	4
▪ The Statistics	5
▪ Equality in the pre- and post -Saddam Hussein Period	6
▪ Political Participation	9
▪ Gender-based Violence	10
• GBV against women	
▪ Rape and other forms of sexual violence	
▪ 'Honour killings': Murder with mitigating circumstances	
▪ Kidnapping and abduction	
▪ Domestic violence	
▪ Trafficking and prostitution	
▪ Female genital cutting (FGC)	
▪ Tribal practices	
▪ Religiously-motivated violence	
▪ Violence against women in detention	
• GBV against men and boys	
▪ Men as perpetrators of GBV in a culture of violence	
▪ Violence against men in detention	
▪ Recruitment into militias	
▪ UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)	19
▪ Coordination on Gender and GBV in the Iraq UNCT	21
▪ Conclusions	22
▪ Recommendations	24
▪ Annexes	
• Annex 1: International Laws and Conventions that protect women's human rights	28
• Annex 2: Reports on GBV January 2003 – May 2008	29
• Annex 3: GBV in Iraq (June 2003 – May 2008)	34

Since 2003, the media has documented the rising civilian death toll in Iraq. A few reports have described the increase in violence against women. However, most government, UN and human rights organisations' reports fail to disaggregate the numbers of casualties and injured or accounts of violence by sex and, accordingly, it is almost impossible to know the incidence of *gender-based* attacks.

The issue of disaggregated data is decisive; without a complete understanding of who is being targeted and the nature of the violence, it is difficult to analyse the crisis accurately or to optimise the protection response. However, the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) does not publish statistics about whom or even how many Iraqis are being killed. And, as crimes against women and girls are not reported because of stigma, fear of retaliation/re-victimisation ('honour killing') or lack of confidence in the police to investigate the complaint, where data is available, it is reasonable to assume that the actual number of women who are attacked, abducted, raped and killed is much higher than the data indicates.

The Inter-agency Information and Analysis Unit (IAU) is a group composed of analytical staff members from the different participating UN agencies and NGOs in Iraq. The IAU was formed in early 2008 to improve the effectiveness of programming, advocacy, policy and coordination of the international response in Iraq and, therefore, the impact of the humanitarian and development response through the strategic use of information.

The IAU identified the dearth of data and information on gender-based violence (GBV) against women and men coming out of Iraq. This gap in knowledge meant that the unit was not in a position to analyse the challenges, threats and opportunities that would guide the UNCT and the UN's partners on the optimal intervention for response and prevention. Accordingly, the purpose of this report is to set out the landscape in Iraq for gender equality, gender relations and systems of gendered power in order to understand and then explore the issue of GBV in Iraq and to make recommendations to the UNCT and its operational partners for moving forward on the issue.

A second report by the IAU, to be finalised by mid-August 2008 will focus on the gender perspective of access to essential services. After the publication of this second report, all further reports will be prepared by the gender coordination body in conjunction with the IAU.

**W**hile there is no doubt that Iraqi men and boys face enormous risk of violence in Iraq, they are significantly less likely to be targeted specifically because they are male. In addition, while men and boys may experience rape and sexual violence during conflict<sup>1</sup>, women and girls are more often targeted specifically as a deliberate military and/or political process.

This report focuses on the nature and extent of violence against women and girls, men and boys in Iraq, as it relates to their sex and to their status in society.

In order to begin to understand the extent and nature of GBV in Iraq, it is important to understand the political, legislative, social and cultural context. For this reason, this report begins by exploring the legislative and constitutional context and history of gender equality and GBV in Iraq, including Iraq's many years of armed conflict and violence, which have influenced the way that violence has become a socially accepted way to resolve conflict and achieve change; violence has infiltrated all aspects of society, including family life.

After looking at the context within which GBV flourishes and is permitted to flourish in Iraqi society, the report, drawing on an analysis of the database of secondary data collected and collated at Annex 3, then examines the nature and extent of the various forms of GBV against women and girls, men and boys.

The report concludes by proposing a number of recommendations for the UNCT in developing effective strategies at three levels – the structural, the systemic and the operative - for addressing GBV (prevention and response).

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<sup>1</sup> Zarkov, Dubravka (2001) 'The Body of the Other Man: Sexual Violence and the Construction of Masculinity, Sexuality and Ethnicity in Croatian Media' in Moser, Caroline O.N. and Clark, Fiona C. (eds) *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence* London: Zed Books, details the systematic rape of Croatian and Bosnian men during the armed conflicts in those regions

### IFHS 2006/2007 Results

No education (female 5-50+ years)	26.8% (male 14.6%)
Attended primary school (female 5-50+ years)	43.3% (male 42.9%)
Attended intermediate school (female 5-50+ years)	14.9% (male 20.2%)
Attended secondary school (female 5-50+ years)	10.3% (male 16.0%)
Females not working [outside the home]	86.7% ( <i>compares top 89.8% reported in MICS3 (COSIT and UNICEF, 2007)</i> )
Agriculture, handicrafts and street sales employment	4.8%
Professional, technical or managerial employment	4.4%
Married by the age of 14 years	2.1% (male 0.9%)
Married or previously married by the age of 19 years	19.3% <sup>2</sup> (male 3.1%)
Consanguinity	60.5% <sup>3</sup>
In polygamous relationships	12.3% ( <i>as with early marriage, there is a correlation between polygamy and education levels. In addition, polygamy is more common among the older women in the group</i> )
Domestic violence - controlling behaviour	83.1% ( <i>of survey group reported at least one form of marital control</i> )
Domestic violence – emotional violence	33.4% ( <i>of survey group reported at least one form of emotional or psychological violence</i> )
Domestic violence – physical violence	21.2% ( <i>of the entire survey group reported experiencing physical violence, with marked differences between Kurdistan (10.9%) and South/Centre (22.7%)</i> ) <sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This percentage coincides with the figure in MICS 2006, which shows that 19% of females between the ages of 15 and 18 years surveyed are already married.

<sup>3</sup> IFHS notes that, in comparison to the results of the 1999 Iraq Child and Maternal Mortality Survey (MoH, 2005), the results indicate that levels of consanguinity have increased over the previous seven years (In the ICMMS, only 52.9% of women were related to their husbands).

<sup>4</sup> These figures from the IFHS 2006/2007 can be examined in the context of the results of the MICS 2006 Report. Which found that 59.1% of women (aged 15-49 years) surveyed said that there was some reasons where a husband is justified in beating his wife (these reasons include when she goes out without telling him, when she neglects the children, when she argues with him, when she refuses to have sex with him or when she burns the food)

## A History of Gender Equality in pre- and post-Saddam Hussein Iraq

In 1970, the Ba'ath Party passed a new Constitution that guaranteed equal rights to women. In 1978, the Party made a number of changes to the personal status laws relating to child-custody, conditions under which a woman could seek a divorce and regulations concerning polygamous marriages and inheritance. These reforms reflected the Party's efforts to modernise Iraqi Society and to replace loyalty to family and tribal society with loyalty to the government and ruling party<sup>5</sup>.

Between 1980 and 1988, as men went off to fight in Iraq's war against Iran, women were drawn into the labour force in greater numbers and into formerly male-dominated positions, such as energy and construction engineers, scientists, doctors, etc. In the 1980s, women comprised 46% of all teachers, 29% of doctors, 46% of dentists, 70% of pharmacists, 15% of factory workers and 16% of civil servants<sup>6</sup>.

In 1986, Iraq ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). However, the State entered reservations relating to some of the Convention's articles. These reservations justified the continued application of discriminatory national laws relating to women's and girls' rights within the family structure on the basis that they are already largely dictated by Islamic law.

After the 1991 Gulf War, many of the advances made in women's and girls' status were reversed for a number of economic, legal and political reasons. The most significant political factor was Saddam Hussein's courtship of Islamic and tribal traditions to curry political favour<sup>7</sup>. The Ba'ath Party adopted laws and policies that reflected tribal traditions, many of which impacted negatively on women, including broadening the scope of "crimes of honour", allowing mitigated sentences of as little as one year<sup>8</sup> and introducing a policy prohibiting the appointment of women to the judiciary.

The UN sanctions imposed after the war had a disproportionate impact on women and children (especially girls)<sup>9</sup>. For example, as the economy worsened, in an effort to ensure employment for men, the government pushed women out of the labour force. As a result, in the final years of Saddam Hussein's government the majority of women held traditional roles within the home. In education, the gender gap in school enrolment – and consequently, female illiteracy - increased dramatically as families with limited resources chose to send their boy children to school.

The Ba'ath Party only allowed the existence and activities of the General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW), which worked under strict governmental control. Membership in any other women's

<sup>5</sup> *Background to Women's Status in Iraq Prior to the Fall of the Saddam Hussein Government*, HRW, November 2003

<sup>6</sup> Neshat, Saeid. "A Look into the Women's Movement in Iraq," *Farzaneh* 6:11 (2003)

<sup>7</sup> HRW (Nov 2003) citing U.N. Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, "Occasional Paper: Situation of Women in Iraq," May 28, 2003 and Zubaida, Sami, *The Rise and Fall of Civil Society in Iraq*, [www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net) 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003.

<sup>8</sup> For example, HRW (Nov. 2003) reports that, in March 1990, a presidential decree was issued exempting men who kill or assault their female relatives in defence of their family's honour from prosecution and punishment, resulting in a resurgence of a practice that had markedly decreased. (The U.N. Commission on Human Rights' Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, E/CN.4/2002/83, January 31, 2002). Under the decree, a male defendant accused of murder or assault of a female relative may plead as a defence that he was motivated by a real or perceived breach of family honour. In murder cases, this defence can result in the reduction of the minimum prison term from eight years to six months. In addition, in 2001, the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Violence against Women reported that since the passage of the reforms in 1991, an estimated 4,000 women and girls had been victims of "honour killings." (HRW, Nov. 2003).

<sup>9</sup> UN Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, *Occasional Paper: Situation of Women in Iraq*, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003 cited in HRW Briefing Paper, Nov. 2003

organisations was considered a crime. The GFIW's main function was the mobilisation of Iraqi women to fight against "imperialism, Zionism, reactionary trends and backwardness"<sup>10</sup>.

Following the US-led invasion in March 2003, the US established the Coalitional Provisional Authority (CPA), under which the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) and governorate councils were appointed. In May 2004, the CPA chose an Interim Iraqi Government (IIG) to oversee the administration of the country and the elections for a Transitional National Assembly. Women were under-represented in all of these bodies, as well as the formal drafting process of the Transitional Administrative Law and only three women served on the 25-member IGC. Similarly, very few women were appointed to the local governorate councils and none were appointed governor or deputy governor. Women were similarly under-represented in the IIG.

As the occupying administration, the CPA made significant changes to the Iraqi legal system. While many of those changes covered issues pertaining to human rights, such as freedom of assembly, prisoner and defendant's rights and legal representation for poor litigants, laws discriminating against women were left untouched.

In February 2004, the CPA introduced the Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period (TAL). As determined in the TAL, the Transitional National Assembly drafted and presented for referendum a permanent Iraqi Constitution. The TAL also set a quota of 25% for women's representation in the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly. In fact, women secured nearly 33% of the seats in the 2005 elections but were severely underrepresented in other branches of government. Only six of the 36 cabinet positions in the transitional government and nine of the 55-member Constitutional Drafting Committee were given to women. Moreover, while the newly independent Iraqi judiciary abandoned the Ba'athist policy of excluding women, pro-active measures were not taken to increase women's representation, leaving the rate of less than two percent.

The new Constitution was passed by referendum in October 2005. In terms of its treatment of women's rights and gender equality, the 2005 Constitution is in some areas progressive and in others problematic. Article 14 establishes clearly equal protection in application of all laws and constitutional provisions, Article 16 states that "[e]qual opportunities shall be guaranteed to all Iraqis" and Article 13 establishes the new Constitution as the "pre-eminent and supreme law in Iraq" and renders void any laws which contradict its provisions.

However, Article 2 of the 2005 Constitution is problematic. It establishes Islam as a foundational source of legislation and states that: A. No law may be enacted that contradicts the established provisions of Islam; B. No law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy; and C. No law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms stipulated in this Constitution. Paragraphs A and B introduce considerable uncertainty as the "established provisions of Islam" and the "principles of democracy" are undefined and, therefore, open to interpretation.

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<sup>10</sup> Neshat, Saeid. "A Look into the Women's Movement in Iraq," *Farzaneh* 6:11 (2003)

While the Constitution articulates women's equality before the law, concerns over women's overall legal standing remain. The majority of the RCC orders and discriminatory laws established under Saddam Hussein's regime were not repealed under the CPA, the IIG or the ITG and remain in place to the present day, thus contradicting Article 14 of the new Constitution. In addition, the effectiveness of women's political participation, even with a quota, is questionable. Independent and more liberal/secular-minded women have been largely excluded from the party list system implemented in the 2005 elections. The largest group of women in the Council of Representatives is religiously conservative and adopt positions that are either detrimental to or neglectful of women's interests. However, arguably the biggest barrier to the realisation of women's rights and gender equality is the government's lack of capacity and political will to implement its obligations. The Ministry of State for Women's Affairs is undermined by a small budget and the absence of an authoritative voice.

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Throughout the reign of the Ba'ath Party, women's interests were represented through the GFIW. Accordingly, women's participation in political life was extremely limited.

Under the quota system of the January 2005 elections, 87 women were elected to the 275-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) and 73 women (27%) were elected to the Council of Representative (COR). However, women are not a powerful group within the COR nor within their own political parties and they remain absent from leadership positions within the highest levels of government. In addition, their level of activism in political life and in civil society is further restricted by their exposure to assassinations and kidnappings and by cultural traditions and religious beliefs, male views on the participation of women in politics and fear among women and their families of violent reprisal for being active in the public sphere. In addition, practices of the Ba'athist regime may be responsible for continued reluctance among some women to get involved in political activities.

There is some concern that the existence of the MSWA has isolated rather than 'mainstreamed' gender issues, with other ministries abandoning women's concerns on the basis that this is the MSWA's concern alone<sup>11</sup>. In an attempt to address this, the MSWA has established Gender Focal Points in each ministry, which together form the Higher Commission for Women's Affairs. Although the MSWA has advocated for legislative reforms by submitting a list of discriminatory laws, decisions and orders that should be cancelled or amended, they report that no new legislation has been passed or amended.

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein, there has been an increase in the establishment of women's rights NGOs and networks both within Iraq and among the Diaspora, which reflects their desire to be involved in political and community decision-making. However, in 2008, five years after the US-led invasion, the ultimate challenge to success of women's effective participation lies in the deteriorating security conditions which limits the work of women's groups on the ground, the supremacy of sectarian interests over social and women's interests in Iraqi politics, and "the dominance of radical Islamic groups and the fear they instil in any modern women's project"<sup>12</sup>.

**In relation to the deteriorating security conditions and the targeting of professional women, a review of reports and newspaper articles between March 2003 and May 2008 (see Annex 3) shows that at least 42 professional women, including politicians, women's rights activists, teachers and doctors, were targeted and killed. The majority of these murders occurred in Baghdad, with a small number of reports coming from Basra, Mosul and Kirkuk<sup>13</sup>. However, given that professional men were also being targeted, it is not possible to say with certainty that gender was a contributing/motivational factor behind these killings.**

<sup>11</sup> ABA/ILDP Report, December 2006

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> It must be clearly understood that there is a bias in the number of reports coming out of Iraq; the vast majority of them come from Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad. This is most probably due to the fact that there is a relatively more active civil society in Iraqi Kurdistan than in the rest of the country; and that there is a concentration of population and media attention in Baghdad.

## Gender-based Violence (GBV)

### *GBV Against Women – the real and perceived threat*

The laws governing violence against women in Iraq either excuse the rape, abduction, assault and murder of women and girls or provide mitigated sentences for the perpetrators, thus directly violating international conventions to which Iraq is a party. Under the pretext of restoring honour and maintaining order within the family, such national laws subordinate women to men and perpetuate violence within the family and the community.

The Iraqi Constitution guarantees equality before the law (Art. 14), the right to life and personal security (Art. 15) and also prohibits violence (Art. 29). The right to liberty and dignity (Art. 37) reinforces this principle, while the prohibition against punishment except as provided by law (Art. 19) further reinforces the illegality of 'honour killings' under the Constitution. Singly and together, these articles guarantee that the State will protect women from violence. Despite these protections, a rise in conservatism, continuing armed conflict and a flawed law enforcement system expose women and girls to many forms of violence; violences that will continue unless addressed by the State, both as a matter of law and practice.

In addition, the constant threat of such violence has immobilised women and girls not directly affected by the violence to the effect that they will not or cannot leave the home to access essential services such as school, university, health centres, markets, etc.

### *Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence*

Survivors of crime and violence have difficulties accessing treatment for their injuries, with reports of women being turned away from hospitals and health care clinics for treatment because centres are either unequipped or unwilling to treat survivors<sup>14</sup>. There is a general lack of awareness regarding survivor's medical needs and guidelines for medical response<sup>15</sup>. In addition, many girls and women do not even attempt to access medical treatment due to the social stigma attached to sexual violence, as reporting the violence can lead to other serious social and cultural consequences such as rejection and re-victimisation (i.e. 'honour crimes') for shaming the family.

Despite the guarantees contained in the 2005 Iraqi Constitution, the Iraqi Penal Code of 1969 and subsequent orders of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) contain provisions that condone violence against women by providing for shorter sentences and, in some cases, impunity from the perpetrator's criminal responsibility<sup>16</sup>. Under the Penal Code, rape is a private offence, meaning that the State cannot take any action without the consent of the complainant or a legal guardian. One of the most controversial provisions in the Penal Code is Paragraph 398, by which the perpetrator can be excused of rape and sexual assault if he marries the victim<sup>17</sup>. In the absence of any provision to the contrary, this mechanism applies even in cases where the victim is a minor. Advocates of this provision argue that it

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July 2003

<sup>15</sup> I refer specifically to UNFPA's 2003 report, 'Iraq Reproductive Health Assessment'.

<sup>16</sup> The American Bar Association and the Iraq Legal Development Project, *The Status of Women in Iraq: Update to the Assessment of Iraq's De Jure and De Facto Compliance with International Legal Standards*, December 2006

<sup>17</sup> The law provides that the sentence will be reinstated or the proceedings will resume if the defendant divorces the victim without legal justification during a period of three years following cessation of the proceedings.

protects the interests of the victim, so that her honour may be restored by virtue of the marriage, thus avoiding a potential 'honour killing' by the family or community. In reality, however, it serves to institutionalise the shame and dishonour associated with rape and thus further jeopardises the victim's life and safety.

The Acting Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Narmin Othman, is leading a campaign to change the law<sup>18</sup>. She is advocating for Parliament to drop the 'honour killings' statute so that perpetrators are prosecuted for murder, the punishment for which is life imprisonment or the death penalty. However, there is a great deal of scepticism that, given the weakness of the government and the conservatism dominating parliament, reform will happen any time soon.

**It is extremely difficult to get accurate data on the number of incidences of rape and sexual violence in Iraq due to the fact that statistics are not maintained by the medical or judicial authorities; that there are only a handful of shelters for women outside of Iraqi Kurdistan; and that survivors do not report to the medical centres or the police for fear of reprisal by their families. However, despite this, a review of reports from human rights and women's organisations and newspaper articles for the period March 2003 – May 2008 gives some indication of the magnitude of the problem (see Annex 3). One report states that between March 2003 and May 2006 (14 months), there were approximately 400 cases of rape reported in Iraq. Another report puts the figure for the period for April 2004 to September 2005 (17 months) at approximately 400 rapes of females and 35 rapes of males. Yet another report states that between February and June 2006 (five months), approximately 60 females were raped in Baghdad alone while another 80 were "sexually abused in other ways".**

**In light of the security, social and cultural context, as well as experience in other conflict situations, it is more than reasonable to assume that the number of incidences is significantly under-reported.**

#### **'Honour Killings': Murder with Mitigating Circumstances**

The Iraqi Penal Code treats 'honour killings' differently from other murders by providing for mitigated sentences when issues of honour are involved. This is inconsistent with the illegality of the act and it serves to enforce the practice of 'honour killing' as a form of extra-judicial punishment. The Iraqi Constitution prohibits such extra-judicial punishment by stating that "there shall be no crime or punishment except by law" (Art.19). Such mitigated sentences are also discriminatory, as they punish acts of violence against women much more leniently than acts of violence against men.

Laws providing for mitigated sentences in relation to 'honour crimes' were suspended in Iraqi Kurdistan in 2000 but remain in effect in the rest of Iraq. RCC Order No. 6 of January 2001 gave effect to a broader category of 'honour crimes' by providing for a mitigated sentence for the killing of a wife or close female relative (*maharem*) where the motive relates to honour. Under Article 130 of the Penal Code, such reduced sentence may be as low as one year where the full penalty would have been death, or six months where the full penalty would have been life imprisonment.

<sup>18</sup> Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), Iraqi Crisis Report, No 251 dated March 28, 2008

'Honour crimes' occur for a range of reasons, including adultery, refusal to marry a man chosen by the family, attempting to marry someone of whom the family do not approve, having pre-marital sex, being a victim of rape, or even suspicion of committing any of these acts. 'Honour crimes' most commonly involve 'honour killings', but also include other forms of violence, such as mutilation.

The CEDAW Committee has expressed its deep concern regarding 'honour killings' in Iraq<sup>19</sup>. It noted that, in addition to the continued practice of this form of violence against women, such crimes are not prosecuted and punished like other murders.

The KRG has made some efforts to address the problem of 'honour killings', including denouncing the practice and raising public awareness of these crimes. The Women's Affairs Committee in the Kurdistan Regional Assembly has worked to change the law in cases of the murder of women. 'Honour', which is considered a defence to murder in other parts of Iraq, is not considered an aggravating circumstance in the Kurdistan Region. Enforcement of these provisions, however, remains problematic.

Outside the Kurdistan Region, perpetrators of 'honour killings' are protected by Iraqi legislation that imposes the most lenient sentences for such crimes. Since a 2001 RCC order expanded the category of 'honour killings' and provided for even further mitigated sentences, the number of 'honour killings' has increased. In addition, despite the leniency of the sentences, 'honour killings' generally go unreported to the police. It is believed that, with the rise in religious conservatism, the incidences of 'honour killings' have further increased in Iraq since the fall of the Ba'ath regime.

'Honour crimes' are a form of family and community violence against women, "violating their right to life, security of the person, freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and equal protection of the law"<sup>20</sup>, as well as additional rights relating to the right of women to enter freely into marriage. 'Honour crimes' also violate the Constitution's prohibition on punishment other than as prescribed by law.

**Again, it is extremely difficult if not impossible to obtain accurate figures on the prevalence of 'honour crimes'. Because the honour of women is often tied to the honour of the family and at times to the tribe, crimes in the name of honour are seldom reported and even less seldom investigated. However, it is known that honour crimes are occurring increasingly in Iraq. Faeq Ameen Bakr, the Director General of Baghdad's Institute for Forensic Medicine, agreed that it is difficult to track the number of 'honour killings' as they often go unreported. He also claimed that many women try to take their own life rather than face the wrath of their families<sup>21</sup>.**

**Despite the difficulties in obtaining accurate figures, human rights and women's organisations have managed to collect some data (see Annex 3). Between 2004 and May 2008, there were approximately 1,270 reports of honour crimes in Iraq (approximate as some of the reports may overlap). The majority of the cases (approximately 980) occurred in Iraqi Kurdistan. However, it is important to note that this is not**

<sup>19</sup> CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3 468 and 469, 14 June 2000 ¶ 193 ("The Committee is also deeply concerned by the violence against women perpetrated through honour killings").

<sup>20</sup> ABA/ILDP, The Status of Women in Iraq: Update to the Assessment of Iraq's *De Jure* and *De Facto* Compliance with International Legal Standards, December 2006.

<sup>21</sup> In an interview with Ziyad Khalaf al-Ajely of IWPR and reported on Peace Women May 17, 2005 at [www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org)

an indication that the situation is any worse in this region than in the rest of Iraq but rather that it is either not possible or is extremely difficult to collect accurate data from other regions. From time to time, a single report – like the 2007 report from Basra, which gave details of 133 women who were killed during that year in so-called ‘honour killings’ – gives some insight to the magnitude of the problem in other areas of Iraq. However, even in the Kurdistan Region, many women’s rights activists report that many ‘fire accidents’, reports of suicides and attempted suicides conceal an ‘honour crime’ committed by the family. Kurdish prosecutors observe that, while the laws no longer provide for mitigated sentences for ‘honour killing’, the crimes continue to go largely unaddressed because the cases are not reported; concealed by the families and therefore, prevented from reaching the courts.

### **Kidnapping and Abduction**

Under Article 423 of the Iraqi Penal Code, the abduction of a woman is a crime carrying a maximum prison sentence of 15 years. Rape or attempted rape is considered an aggravating factor that carries a penalty of death or life imprisonment. Article 423 was among the articles for which the death penalty was reinstated by Order No. 3 of 2004. As in the case of rape and attempted rape, the penalty is voided by the abductor’s marriage to the victim.

**While abductions and kidnappings occur to both men and women, the difference is that the trauma of abduction for many women does not end upon their escape or release; the shame associated with the disappearance of a female member of the family causes many families not to report the kidnapping. The resulting stigma of sexual impurity means that, even if the girl should return, she may be rejected by her family. It is further reported that some families will negotiate with the captor to marry the victim so as to restore her honour; a solution sanctioned by the law.**

**Because abduction is associated with the stigma of rape or sexual assault – real or perceived – the incident is under-reported. Despite this, an examination of reports from human rights and women’s organisations, as well as newspaper articles for the period mid-2003 to May 2008 (see Annex 3) shows that at least 29 women were abducted, some of them raped, tortured and killed.**

### **Domestic Violence**

Under Article 41 of the Iraqi Penal Code, a husband is legally entitled to punish his wife. While the law specifies that such punishment is permissible “within certain limits prescribed by law or by custom,” there are no specified legal limits and the customary limits are undefined.

Iraq’s legal provisions for domestic violence contradict UDHR (Art. 3), the ICCPR (Articles 2, 3, and 26) and CEDAW (Arts 2, 5, 15 and 16), as well as the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (Art. 4), which stipulates that States may not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations to eliminate violence against women.

**Violence in the family in Iraq goes mostly unreported. According to an Amnesty report, “[t]radition all too often serves as a pretext for acts of brutality against women for daring to choose how to lead their lives”<sup>22</sup>. The few existing reports on the subject show that violence against women is widespread. A report by Physicians for Human Rights surveyed 2,000 families in the south, 50% of which reported household violence in the form of beatings, torture or murder<sup>23</sup>. According to the Iraq Family Health Survey 2006/2007<sup>24</sup>, 83.1% of the survey group reported at least one form of marital controlling behaviour; 33.4% reported at least one form of emotional or psychological violence and 21.2% reported experiencing physical violence. In this latter regard, there are marked differences between Kurdistan (10.9%) and South/Centre (22.7%)**

### **Trafficking and Prostitution**

The Iraqi Constitution prohibits trafficking of women and children and prostitution is a criminal offence. The Anti-Prostitution Law introduced in 1988 included a penalty of three months to two years for women found guilty of prostitution. RCC Order Number 234 of 2001 amended the Anti-Prostitution Law of 1988 to mandate capital punishment for individuals guilty of pimping and prostitution. This Order, however, is no longer in effect. CPA Order No. 7 2003, Section 3, repealed all provisions providing for the death penalty and substituted them with life imprisonment. Following the transfer of authority, the IIG reinstated the death penalty for certain offences, but prostitution and pimping were not among them. Notably, there are no penal provisions outlawing solicitation.

Women and girls sold into prostitution have little, if any, recourse. If they are able to escape and seek assistance from law enforcement authorities, they are often charged with crimes because they are carrying fake passports or because they have been forced by their captors to engage in unlawful behaviour. Others are kept in prisons for their own safety; to protect them against the family’s or community’s retaliation for bringing shame on the family/community. Efforts to detect and prevent sex trafficking are inadequate. While the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for trafficking-related issues, the security situation has prevented it from responding actively to the problem. Trafficking crimes are not specifically enumerated in Ministry of the Interior statistics on criminal activity and they have not included trafficking in police training curricula.

**Reports with accurate and reliable data on the extent and the nature of prostitution and trafficking in Iraq are scant. See Annex 3 for reports and articles for the period mid-2003 to May 2008 which have been reviewed. The ABA/ILDP Report (December 2006) says that the Organisation for Women’s Freedom in Iraq estimates that nearly 3,500 Iraqi women have gone missing since 2003 (to December 2006) and it suspects that a large number of those women have become victims of sex-trafficking. In addition, in an IRIN report of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005, Saeed Muhammad, a senior official at the Ministry of Labour and Social**

<sup>22</sup> ‘Iraq: Decades of Suffering – Now Women Deserve Better’, Amnesty International (2005)

<sup>23</sup> ‘Iraq: Decades of Suffering – Now Women Deserve Better’, Amnesty International (2005) at, citing Lynn L. Amowitz at al: Human Rights Abuses and Concerns About Women’s Health and Human Rights in Southern Iraq, in the Journal of the American Medical Association, March 24/31, 2004 (Vol. 291, No. 12) 1471 – 1479.

<sup>24</sup> Republic of Iraq, Iraq Family Health Survey Report (IFHS 2006/2007), Ministries of Health Iraq and Kurdistan Region, COSIT, KRSO and WHO

**Affairs, said that unofficial information suggests that there could be as many as 4,000 male commercial sex workers, who are regularly assaulted and exploited by gangs and pimps.**

### Female Genital Cutting (FGC)

Although not to be a common practice in the south of Iraq, there are reports that FGC has resurfaced in the northern part of Iraq. There are no specific laws against the practice and, although the MoH states that doctors are not permitted to perform such procedures, there is no legal mechanism to enforce this prohibition. There is no data available on the subject of the nature and extent of FGC in Iraq.

### Religiously Motivated Violence and Tribal Practices

The ABA/ILDP Report (December 2006) claims that, amidst the mounting sectarian tensions in Iraq, extremist Sunni and Shiite groups are intimidating women through both verbal threats, flyers and graffiti to wear the *hijab* and to avoid 'immoral' or 'un-Islamic' behaviour or face violent consequences.

In Basra, Iraq's second largest city, 133 women were killed and mutilated in 2007. The women had been targeted by Islamist militias and, once dead, their bodies dumped in rubbish tips with notes warning others against "violating Islamic teachings". In their report on the incident, Madre reported that ambulance drivers who are hired to scour the streets of the city in the mornings to collect the bodies confirm what most residents believe: the actual numbers are much higher<sup>25</sup>.

The ABA/ILDP Report (December 2006) also found that there are reported cases of women being used as bargaining tools or as gifts between tribes. Exchanges of women as compensation in tribal disputes are reportedly on the increase in some rural areas of Iraq. Other forms of forced marriage, including the practice of *Al Nehwa* marriages where a girl is forced to marry her paternal cousin, are also commonly practised. Forced marriage is a recognised form of violence against women and a violation of their fundamental freedoms. It is also illegal in Iraq under Article 9(2) of the Personal Status Code, but these prohibitions are not enforced.

**A review of human rights and women's organisations' reports and articles for the period 2003 to May 2008 (see Annex 3) shows that there were over 200 reported cases of religiously-motivated crimes and killings of women and men (this includes the report on the killing of approximately 75 singers) in Iraq. It is important to note here that the categorisation of crimes between religiously-motivated and honour crimes is extremely difficult and the reported murder of 133 in Basra in 2007 has been classified under honour-related crimes and, therefore, is not included here.**

### Violence Against Women in Detention

While the media coverage of the scandal of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib focused on the torture, sexual abuse and humiliation of Iraqi men, a variety of sources suggest that female prisoners suffered similar treatment, including rape. According to a HRW report<sup>26</sup>, the secrecy surrounding female detentions

<sup>25</sup> 'Who is Killing the Women of Basra' at <http://www.madre.org/articles/me/womenbasra010908.html>

<sup>26</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July, 2003

"resulted from a collusion of the families and the occupying forces"; families feared social stigma and the MNF-I feared condemnation by human rights groups and anger from Iraqis.

On 20 May 2004, the (British) Guardian newspaper reported that, even before the release of the digital photographs, the scandal of what was happening in the prison was exposed in December 2003 by a female prisoner who smuggled a note out of Abu Ghraib that claimed that American guards were raping female detainees held in the prison and that some of them were pregnant. The message urged the Iraqi resistance to bomb the jail in order to spare the women further shame.

The 2004 Taguba Report, which investigated persistent allegations of human rights abuses at Abu Ghraib, confirmed that in at least one instance a U.S. military policeman had raped at least one female prisoner and that guards had videotaped and photographed naked female detainees. In a 2004 issue of the *New Yorker* magazine, there were reports that secret photos and videos showed American soldiers having sex with a female Iraqi prisoner. Additional photographs made their way to web sites.

According to the U.S. State Department's report, 'Iraq Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2005', which was released on 8 March 2006, abuses of women, such as threats, intimidation, beatings and the application of electric shocks also occurred at the hands of the Iraqi police.

Men's detention also affects women's security. As ICRC notes in their 17 March 2007 report entitled 'Iraq: No let-up in the humanitarian crisis' "[t]ens of thousands of Iraqis, most of them men, are currently in detention, often far from their homes. In many cases, the household they have left behind is now headed by a woman... Most visitors are women, since it has become extremely dangerous for men to travel between governorates. For a two-hour meeting with their detained husband, father, brother or son, they take their children on a perilous journey that can last several days but prior to the war could have taken a few hours".

While there have been some reports, including the Taguba Report, which confirm or claim that women in detention have been sexually abused (see Annex 3), the bigger problem relates to the perception that the abuse occurs at all and, therefore, any woman who is detained and later released will have her 'sexual purity' questioned and, thus, cast a shadow on the family's 'honour'. Reports show that this alone is enough to put the woman at risk of being killed by her extended family in order to protect their honour.

### **GBV Against Men and Boys**

Men and boys also experience GBV that is different but equally unjust as that experienced by women and girls, whether as detainees, prostitutes, civilians or people who diverge from gender norms (e.g. pacifists, homosexuals, etc.). Men are directly targeted in armed conflict and make up the majority of casualties and fatalities of small arms and weapons. Indeed, the increasing number of number of households headed by women in Iraq is an illustration of men's specific vulnerability.

While it is important to note the number of male fatalities and casualties in Iraq, it is equally important to examine how strategies of humiliation – sexual or otherwise – which were so evident in the Abu Ghraib scandal, is a psychological form of GBV against men that aims to demean them and to cripple them with

guilt and anger for having failed to assume their perceived responsibility of protecting themselves and their families, especially their women.

### **Men as Perpetrators of GBV in a Culture of Violence**

Violence is not inherent in men and boys; it is a reflection of the 'masculine expectations' imposed by societies and manipulated by states (El Jack, 2003). Saddam Hussein's reign was characterised by violence, massive human rights' violations and endemic fear. Under the dictator's rule, Iraq was involved in three wars, endured over a decade of sanctions and saw their leader's allegiances shift between the modernists towards the traditionalists in order to win their political support; and it is this landscape that informed the creation of contemporary Iraqi masculinities.

To understand gender relations in modern day Iraq, it is important to understand the concept of hegemonic Iraqi masculinity and its relationship to the identity of the Iraqi nation state, where concepts of masculinity and male dominance are epitomised in the protection of the family/tribe, in militarism and in times of war. Aggression and violence are integral to warfare; they are also firm indicators of hegemonic masculinity in Iraq.

Most Iraqi men have a gun and this is an expression of their masculinity; a part of their identity as the protector of the family and of the family's honour. Fearing vulnerability, masculinity takes a punitive stance against others and a scornful attitude towards any supposed feminine attributes. Thus, constructions of Iraqi aggressive and violent masculinity have been nourished by historical conditioning, social-cultural practices and by class, ethnic and religious practices. However, as in any society, Iraqi men are not homogeneous and there are male voices of dissent; men and boys who want an end to the culture of violence, violence as a form of conflict resolution and violence against women and girls. The challenge is to identify these dissenters and to assist them to create an enabling environment in which they can mobilise and be advocates and activists for a non-violent, equal and democratic Iraqi society.

### **Violence Against Men in Detention**

On 28 April 2004, CBS News broadcast the first photographs of abuses by American soldiers of male Iraqi detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. The photographs of Iraqi Muslim men in humiliating poses, naked, taunted by laughing male and female American soldiers, wearing women's underwear, posed simulating sex, ordered to masturbate or to have oral sex with other detainees showed the detainees and, by extension, all Iraqis, as vulnerable, humiliated and fearful. This was gender-based violence against men at its most explicit, where the nature of the violence was designed as such because the detainees were male and to optimise the level of humiliation that could be inflicted.

Both before and after the Abu Ghraib revelations, human rights organisations have continued to report on the poor conditions and the arbitrary nature of detention of men in Iraq (see Annex 3).

### **Recruitment into Militias**

It is a commonly held belief among human rights and humanitarian organisations that children – predominantly boys – are being recruited into armed militias. However, the review of the reports and

articles undertaken for this report revealed only one incident of forced recruitment (see Annex 3), involving approximately 40 young boys in Baghdad and Anbar Province recruited to make bombs.

### **GBV and Racism: A Word of Warning**

The occupation of Iraq has not resulted in greater equality and freedom for women. On the contrary, it has strengthened the forces against women's rights and empowerment. Symbolically, the images of female soldiers abusing male prisoners in Abu Ghraib negatively affects Iraqis' perceptions about the substance of women's rights in the West and the more vigorously external actors promote Iraqi women's rights and the more Iraqis perceive that call as a part of the occupation's agenda, the greater the backlash against women in Iraq may be.

Culture alone explains very little about GBV. It makes much more sense to examine a gendered system of power relations. There is nothing 'Muslim' about that system, except that its proponents, like their counterparts from other religions, use culture and religion to rationalise women's subjugation. In fact, shifting the focus from culture to gender reveals a system of power that is nearly universal. If we look at the events in Basra in 2007, when 133 women were killed for 'un-Islamic behaviours', rather than seeing violence against women based on cultural traditions, we see a campaign to keep women in the domestic domain and end women's participation in the social and political domains.

## UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) – UNSCR 1325

*“If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with women”*

Mohandas Gandhi<sup>27</sup>

Among other things, UNSCR 1325 recognises that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can contribute significantly to international peace and security. Notwithstanding that the armed conflict is ongoing in Iraq and that there is in fact no peace process, UNSCR 1325 can contribute greatly to informing UN action and programming, especially in the areas of governance and protection. Below are the provisions of the Resolution most relevant to UNCT Iraq;

*The Security Council,*

*Expressing* concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and *recognizing* the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

*Reaffirming* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and *stressing* the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

*Reaffirming also* the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

*Noting* the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. *Urges* Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict;
7. *Urges* Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children’s Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;
8. *Calls on* all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia:
  - a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction;

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<sup>27</sup> Cited in Shelley Anderson ed., *Just Words: Quotations on Gender, Non-violence and Peace* (Alkmaar: IFOR, 2005), p. 33

- b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements;
  - c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;
9. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
10. *Calls on* all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;
11. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard *stresses* the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions

## Coordination of Gender and GBV Initiatives in the Iraq UNCT

In the Iraq UNCT, as in UNCTs worldwide, gender is a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed across all sectors of activity. UNIFEM Iraq is mandated the lead of the Gender Task Force (GTF) and most agencies/Sector Outcome Teams have assigned a member of staff as a Gender Focal Point. For the purposes of developing the CAP 2008, a GBV Working Group was convened to review all projects with a GBV component. After the CAP process, this group disbanded.

The original draft of the GTF's Terms of Reference did not refer to humanitarian action, addressing GBV or promoting GBV Response and Prevention initiatives. The latest version (not yet finalised – 1 June 2008) refers to humanitarian and development action, the promotion of gender equality and addressing GBV as primary responsibilities.

Without a strong central coordination structure that includes well-defined coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, gender equality and GBV will most properly be largely overlooked by the UNCT. There are some individual Gender Focal Points and other UN personnel who do try insofar as is possible within their own mandate to integrate a gender equality and GBV response and prevention perspective. Unfortunately, however, this tends to be *ad hoc* in nature. The area of effective coordination requires immediate and urgent attention. When fully and effectively functioning, the GTF must then be given an authoritative position at the UNCT table.

UNIFEM, in a publication titled *Resource Guide for Gender Theme Groups* (January 2005) refer to an assessment<sup>28</sup> that revealed that the “effectiveness of Gender Theme Groups (GTGs) as mechanisms for promoting gender mainstreaming... was often undermined by intermittent activity levels, frequent change in membership and the members' low ranking in the overall organizational hierarchy”. In addition to these challenges to the effectiveness of the Iraq UNCT's Gender Task Force, the absence of a strategy for the integration of a gender perspective and GBV Response and Prevention is a serious omission hampering effective progress in these areas. Notwithstanding that UNIFEM's January 2005 report specifically does not address Gender Theme Groups in conflict and post-conflict countries, nor does it address UNCTs that operate in remote support capacity, the findings are nonetheless illuminating to this study of the Iraqi situation.

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<sup>28</sup> UNDP & UNIFEM. Scan of Gender Expertise in the UN System. UNIFEM, New York, 2003

## Conclusions

1. In its concluding comments on Iraq's last report in June 2000, the CEDAW Committee criticised the Government of Iraq for its lack of a comprehensive approach to the issue of violence against women, particularly the lack of data and information on the incidence and types of violence perpetrated against women in the home and in society; the absence of social, medical and psychological support available to survivors; and the absence of measures to prosecute and punish perpetrators and to provide legal redress.<sup>29</sup> It appears that the situation, rather than improving, has worsened especially in the context, the confusion and the social upheaval of the ongoing war in Iraq.
2. Data on GBV in Iraq is not collected on a systematic basis. What reports are available are *ad hoc*; do not cover all governorates; and do not allow trend analysis over time and location. Therefore it is not presently possible to have a complete picture and understanding of the nature and extent of GBV in Iraq. This makes an effective strategic response very difficult.
3. There is no repository of information mapping out who is doing what and where on the structural, systemic and operative levels of intervention on GBV response and prevention.
4. Iraq's Constitution prohibits discrimination and guarantees the right to life, personal security, liberty and dignity. Additionally, the Constitution specifically prohibits "all forms of violence and abuse within the family." However, despite these provisions, certain sections of the Penal Code and RCC Orders have not been amended and, accordingly, do not correspond with the Constitution or with international standards. This legislation ignores and in some cases sanctions violence against women, sets mitigating sentences for and relieves perpetrators of crimes of violence against women from criminal liability by encouraging the forced marriage of a victim and perpetrator.
5. Given the severe and, in many cases, fatal consequences to women and girls of reporting acts of sexual violence, which are commonly seen as bringing dishonour upon the family, frequently leading to 'honour killings', it is reasonable to assume that the number of unreported cases is substantial. Even where victims do attempt to report their case, the police may refuse to file the complaint.
6. While there has been an apparent increase in the number of reported cases of GBV in Iraq over the five years reviewed in this study, the majority of these reports emanate from Iraqi Kurdistan, Baghdad and Basra. This is clearly not to say that the level of GBV in these areas is higher than in other areas but rather that the level of reporting is higher. In the case of Iraqi Kurdistan, the cooperation of the KRG and the work of an increasingly active and focal civil society working in the area of responding to violence against women and promoting women's rights and empowerment explain the higher level of reporting from this area.
7. To the extent that the law provides punitive measures for acts of violence against women, enforcement is extremely limited. Obstacles include the lack of female police personnel, a lack of sensitivity and awareness among law enforcement and medical personnel, limited forensics

<sup>29</sup> CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3 468 and 469, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2000, ¶ 189

capabilities and poor investigative practices within the police services and the judiciary. However, the dominating obstacle is the lack of will to respond in the current environment of religious and traditional conservatism.

8. There are no government sponsored shelters for women in Iraq. While the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) might support the development of institutions to help survivors, it does not have the budget to establish state-run shelters.<sup>30</sup> Non-governmental women's shelters are very few and have limited capacity<sup>31</sup>.
9. The importance of recognising, encouraging, supporting and strengthening the capacity of women in conflict and in post-conflict cannot be under-estimated or over-stated<sup>32</sup>. While appreciating the different mandates and *modus operandi* of UN Agencies like UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAMI (specifically the Human Rights Office) and UNICEF in relation to women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality, the different agencies do not currently liaise systematically on the subject of GBV and have not developed a comprehensive response strategy for addressing GBV in Iraq.
10. The destabilisation of gender relations during armed conflict and its aftermath can open up opportunities for positive transformation of those relations. However, the potential for capitalising on these opportunities, when people and societies can ask some fundamental questions about what kind of society they would like and how gender relations will function within it, will depend on who participates in the post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building processes. To date, the processes for the establishment of the interim governments and the drafting of the Constitution have excluded women; and the terms of the UNSCR 1325 have not been adhered to nor the lessons from previous conflict and post-conflict scenarios learnt.
11. Women's rights are key to the evolution of democracy, as well as to long-term peace and stability. UNSCR 1325 recognises the important role women play in preventing conflict, encouraging reconciliation and helping to rebuild conflict-ridden societies.

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<sup>30</sup> Comments to authors by Ministry personnel; Killing for Honor, Ziad Khalaf Al Ajely, Institute for War and Peace Reporting at 1, published at [www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May\\_05/honour.html](http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May_05/honour.html), cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006.

<sup>31</sup> For example, only 12 women can be accommodated in Asuda at any one time.<sup>100</sup> The Nawa Centre, opened by German NGO Wadi in 1999 in Sulaimaniyah, Northern Iraq and now run by the Ministry of Social Affairs with funding and technical support from WADI, provides shelter and counselling to homeless and displaced women and assists with conflict resolution as a means of reconciling women with their families. The Khanzad Centre for Women in Distress in Erbil provides similar services, also with funding from WADI.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

1. **Structural Level** (i.e. preventative measures to ensure rights are recognised and protected (through international, statutory and traditional laws and policies)

**Amend national legislation and policies** - Iraq's Government must amend national legislation to bring it into line with international treaties to which it is a party. The Government must also develop policies to protect women's rights, prosecute cases of GBV, punish perpetrators and provide effective remedies to women victims of violence.

There is much that the UN and its partners can do to support this, especially through the work of the Governance and Protection Outcome Teams (OTs).

In the UN's Iraq Assistance Strategy 2008 – 2010, the Governance OT includes among its outcomes, to strengthen national dialogue and civil society for governance and reconciliation, with a corresponding output of increasing the capacity of women and women's institutions in order to enable them to take an active role in the governance process. In addition, as a step towards strengthening regulatory frameworks, institutions and processes of national and local governance, the Governance OT will focus on developing the capacity of the Council of Representatives for integrity, inclusive governance, gender and human rights.

The Gender Task Force works closely and collaboratively with the Governance OT to ensure the integration of a gender equality perspective into the reforms for enhanced rule of law and respect for human rights in line with international standards and in all judicial and governance (national and local) sector reforms; as well as in the area of empowering women.

Also in the UN's Iraq Assistance Strategy 2008 – 2010, the Protection OT, acknowledging that the "protection of women's rights has deteriorated since 2003" propose a number of outputs that are most relevant to addressing GBV in Iraq. These include the following:

- Specific legislation, policies and codes developed and reviewed and recommendations submitted for required amendments, in line with international laws, standards and principles
- Awareness increased among GoI, non-state actors, civil society and civilian population and other stakeholders on human rights and international humanitarian law
- Harmonised systems for monitoring and reporting on protection issues are established, and findings in reports and studies (including baseline data) are available
- Children, young people, women, displaced persons, returnees and other vulnerable groups have access to protection services and other types of support.

GBV as the most brutal manifestation of gender inequality is a protection issue. It is recommended strongly that the issue of GBV be considered within the work of the Protection OT. Thereafter, it is imperative that the Gender Task Force engage proactively with the Protection OT in order to ensure that the issue of GBV is addressed in their work.

**Seek out and listen to Iraqi women's and men's organisations** - Iraqi women have a very long history of political struggle, popular organising, jurisprudence and scholarship aimed at securing rights within their societies. It is imperative to the success of a GBV response and prevention campaign to seek out and listen to progressive Iraqis – men and women and they must be the *drivers of change*, who will dictate the direction and the pace of change and transformation.

With Saddam Hussein's courtship of the Iraqi traditionalist patriarchal structures, Iraq's provisions for women's rights were systematically rolled back. Without the capacity and know-how to organise and mobilise to create a reinforcing support system, women saw a deterioration in their rights and in their quality of life. Accordingly, the creation of an independent civil society in Iraq is key to the promotion of an empowered female population and durable gender equality. Subsequently, it will be important to find effective ways to empower these organisations to mobilise and be activists for transformation. This recommendation is made to the UNCT in general and to the Governance and Protection OTs specifically.

**UNSCR 1325** recognises the important role women play in preventing conflict, encouraging reconciliation and helping to rebuild conflict-ridden societies. In order that women can play their role effectively, they need to be at the negotiation table and they need to be heard. The UNCT has a role in promoting the provisions of UNSCR 1325 through the institutional structures of Iraq and through the development of its own strategies for Iraq, to serve as a framework for mainstreaming gender equality and addressing the issues of GBV in conflict and post-conflict Iraq.

2. **Systemic Level** - Systems and strategies to respond when those rights are breached (legal/justice systems, health care systems, social welfare systems and community-based mechanisms)

**Map out who is doing what where** in order to understand what systems and services for legal, medical, social welfare and community-based response are available. This will also give an understanding of what local Iraqi civil society is doing – what, where and with what level of success; what are the challenges; and what are the threats in relation to the prevention of and response to GBV. This will indicate the momentum for transformation and the shape that transformation must take, and will be all the more sustainable for coming from Iraqi men and women themselves. This mapping of what is happening and what is working in the area of GBV response and programming will subsequently inform more targeted programme and policy development at the systemic level. Involving as it does the myriad of UN and partner organisations, it is proposed that the Gender Task Force takes the lead in coordinating this task and analysing and advising on the results.

**Enhance existing capacity/establish new capacity for appropriate medical, legal and psychosocial response** – It is clear that the level of response for survivors – where it is sought – is poor to non-existent. It is imperative that the capacity of medical, legal and psychosocial services and systems be enhanced, based strictly on the principles of confidentiality, respect for the survivor and her/his wishes, regard for the safety and security of the survivor and those assisting her/his and non-discrimination. Subsequently, when the capacity has been enhanced or established, it will be important

that a campaign of awareness be undertaken so that survivors are aware where they may safely and confidentially seek assistance, if they so wish.

Depending on the results of the mapping exercise (at the systemic level), and in the current security environment, the Gender Task Force must consider the effectiveness and feasibility of developing and implementing Standard Operational Procedures for GBV response work.

**Data collection and analysis** – It is absolutely crucial that the UNCT, in collaboration with the whole humanitarian and development community combine their resources and share their data and information to collect and analyse the evolving situation of the extent and the nature of GBV in Iraq. The UNAMI's Information Analysis Unit (IAU), together with the relevant gender and GBV coordination bodies can take the lead on this.

3. **Operative Level** - Direct services to meet the needs of survivors (response)

**Map out who is doing what and where at the operative level** so as to understand the level of, gaps in and opportunities for response and prevention work. In addition, a mapping exercise may also reveal opportunities for referral mechanisms within and between locations (as above under the systemic level).

**Standard Operating Procedures** - In addition, it is important that interventions at the operative level incorporate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are based on the key principles of confidentiality; respect for the survivor and her/his wishes; the safety and security of the survivor and those who are assisting her/him; and non-discrimination (as above under the systemic level).

**Reflect the diverse realities of Iraqi women and men's lives** - interventions must reflect the diverse realities of Iraqi women and men – their gender, their ethnicity, their religion, their class, their location (urban or rural) and their role as activists, parents, combatants, victims and survivors. Recognising and addressing this diversity is key to more sustainable, gender-equal societies<sup>33</sup>.

**Address Islamist violence against women within a global climate of hostility towards Islam and Muslims** - Echoing the advice of Madre (2007), in engaging in the subject of GBV – especially violence against women and girls - the challenge will be to find a way to address Islamist violence against women without endorsing the racist idea that GBV in Iraq somehow derives from Islam in what is already a climate of hostility towards Islam and Muslims. While being careful to avoid accusations of imposing “Western values” or of “cultural imperialism”, the fear of such accusations cannot silence the UN on the subject of GBV in Iraq, because silence is not a defensible response to grave human rights abuses. In the end, there is nothing inherently “Western” but rather there is everything universal about women's rights. The answer to this dilemma is the creation of an enabling environment for Iraqi men and women to advance the position of women in Iraq and combat GBV against women and men.

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<sup>33</sup> Adapted from El Jack, Amani, 'Gender and Armed Conflict: Overview Report, BRIDGE (development – gender), Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, August 2003.

#### **4. Coordination and Strategy Development**

***UNCT Gender Equality and GBV Prevention and Response Coordination*** – the Gender Task Force must be more strategic in their work of coordinating efforts to integrate a gender equality and GBV (response and prevention) perspective into the Iraq UNCT's work. In this regard, it is imperative that the group develops, as a priority, a Strategic Plan that addresses GBV response and prevention initiatives and activities at the structural, systemic and operative levels. The GTF must also develop an Action Plan that reflects the Strategic Plan and that includes clear roles and responsibilities and concrete timelines.

In addition, collaboration between the agencies, such as UNIFEM, UNAMI (HRO), UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, together with the international, national and local NGOs, with a specific focus and/or mandate on gender equality and GBV response and prevention, is to be encouraged and coordinated, including the development of common advocacy messages, campaigns and response and prevention strategies.

DRAFT

## ANNEX 1

### INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND CONVENTIONS THAT PROTECT WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS<sup>34</sup>

- Charter of the United Nations (1945)
- United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- OHCHR Declaration on the protection of Women in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
- The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985)
- UNHCR Policy on Refugee Women (1990)
- UN Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)
- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)
- Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action (1995)
- Optional Protocol to CEDAW (1999)
- Windhoek Declaration: The Namibia Plan of Action on 'Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations' (2000)
- UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (2000)
- European Parliament Resolution on Gender Aspects of Conflict Resolution and Peace-building (2000)

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<sup>34</sup> List taken from El Jack, Amani, 'Gender and Armed Conflict: Overview Report, BRIDGE (development – gender), Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, August 2003

## ANNEX 2: Reports on GBV

	Title	Author(s)	Date of Publication	Report Type	Methodology	Geographical/ Group Focus
1	Iraq: No let-up in the humanitarian crisis	ICRC	March 2008	Annual Report	Interviews and summary of project activities	General (with specific focus on mainly male detainees, broken families and women's access to detention centres to visit male family members)
2	Stronger Women - Stronger Nations: 2008 Iraq Report - Amplifying the Voices of Women in Iraq	Women for Women International	March 2008	Annual Report	Survey by questionnaire of 1,513 women on their top economic, social and political priorities through a network of women's organisations	Questionnaire to 1,513 women in WfW's programmes in Hilla and Karbala and, through NCCI, "nationwide through women's organisations under the NCCI umbrella" - Baghdad, Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Kut (Wassit), Basra, Nasiriyah, Fallujah, Samarra, Rawah, Kirkuk, disaggregated into Central, Baghdad, Basra, Kurdistan, South and Kirkuk.
3	Meeting with Chief of Police, Basra	UNAMI HRO	January 2008	Minutes of meeting	Main points of meeting	Basra
4	Carnage and Despair: Iraq Five Years On.	Amnesty International	January 2008	Summary Report (fifth 'anniversary' of the war)	Summary reports from previous five years	General
5	Report on the regional 'Caring for Survivors of Sexual Violence' training and training of trainers in Amman, Jordan on 9 – 18 Dec. 2007	UNICEF & UNFPA	December 2007	Training Report	N/A	General
6	UNAMI Human Rights Report	UNAMI HRO	1 Jul - 31 Dec 2007	Periodic Report	Summary of interviews of victims and witnesses of human rights violations and summary of activities and contacts with state-level (GoI, KRG), UN and civil society human rights stakeholders, including responses to draft reports from key stakeholders (MNF-I, Iraqi Security Forces, Iraqi Government, KRG, etc.)	General

7	Promoting the Rights of Children in Iraq - Rekindling Hope in a Time of Crisis: A Situation Analysis	UNICEF	August 2007	Situational Analysis	A desk review of reports, data and documents and interviews with key informants with Iraqi Government officials and citizens, as well as UNICEF staff and partners to produce an analysis of the conditions of Iraqi children and women in 2007 "within the limitations imposed by available data and rapidly changing conditions due to the growing humanitarian crisis".	General
8	Where is Iraq heading? Lessons from Basra	International Crisis Group: Middle East Report No. 67	June 25 2007	Briefing Report	Individual interviews in Basra, March 2005	Basrah
9	You can come upon women's bodies anywhere'	Katha Poillitt in The Guardian Newspaper	May 18, 2007	Newspaper article	Desk review and informant interviews	General
10	UNAMI Human Rights Report	UNAMI HRO	1 Apr - 30 Jun 2007	Periodic Report	As above	General overview of the human rights situation in Iraq (including the Kurdistan region - reported separately), with a focus on 'the situation of women' (incl. VAW, with a focus in this edition on 'honour killings' in the Kurdistan region) and conditions of detainees in detention centres (including juveniles).
11	Promising Democracy, Imposing Theocracy: Gender-based violence and the US war on Iraq	Madre	March 2007	Research report, drawing on information from the organisation's sister organisation in Iraq, the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq	Desk researched report	"This report explores the scourge of [GBV] in US-occupied Iraq. It documents the use of [GBV] by Islamists seeking to establish a theocracy, including assaults on women in the public sphere, "honour killings", violence against women in the context of Iraq's civil war, GBV against men, and torture of women in detention" (pg. 1)
12	Republic of Iraq, Iraq Family Health Survey Report (IFHS 2006/7)	MoH (Iraq and Kurdistan), MoPCD, COSIT, KRSO and WHO	2006/2007	Survey report	A sample size of 10,860 households, including 14,675 women (in the 15-49 years age bracket) over 16 of the 18 governorates.	16 of the 18 Governorates were covered and the final figures inflated to allow for the fact that two governorates could not be accessed (for security reasons). The survey involved a household survey (administered) to the head of the household or an adult informant, a 20-items self-reporting questionnaire and a questionnaire for women aged 15-49 years.

13	The Status of Women in Iraq: Update to the Assessment of Iraq's <i>de jure</i> and <i>de facto</i> compliance with international legal standards	American Bar Association	December 2006	Survey and analysis report	The <i>de jure</i> analysis was completed by the American Bar Association with research support and advice from a team of Iraqi attorneys. The <i>de facto</i> analysis was initially completed in the first half of 2005 in cooperation with a network of Iraqi NGOs working on women's issues in Iraq; 35 NGOs representing the cultural, religious and geographical diversity of Iraq were recruited, were trained, developed the survey and survey protocol and carried out the survey interviews. ILDP researchers surveyed a range of secondary sources and reports for the background analysis.	General
14	Women in Post-Saddam Iraq: One Step Forward or Two Steps Back?	Lucy Brown and David Romano	Draft manuscript - June 15, 2004, Revised - July 10, 2005, Final Revision - December 14, 2006	Report	Field research and interviews (L. Brown January - May 2004 and D. Romano Sept. 2003 - May 2004), followed by desk-based research and analysis.	An examination of the history of women's equality in Iraq with some recommendations on the way forward post US-led invasion
15	UNAMI Human Rights Report	UNAMI HRO	1 Nov - 31 Dec 2006	Periodic Report	As above	General
16	UNAMI Human Rights Report	UNAMI HRO	1 Sept - 31 Oct 2006	Periodic Report	As above	General
17	UNAMI Human Rights Report	UNAMI HRO	1 July - 31 Aug 2006	Periodic Report	As above	General
18	The Hidden War on Women in Iraq	Ruth Rosen, Global Policy Forum	July 13 2006	Report	Quotes from reports and from personal interviews with human rights activists	Sexual terrorism on male and female detainees in Abu Ghraib and on the streets of Baghdad.
19	Why Women Matter	PeaceWomen.org	August 31 2005	Editorial report	Editorial report on the then draft Constitution	General

20	Iraq's war on women	Lesley Abdela in Open Democracy (.net)	July 18 2005	Editorial report	Editorial report	General
21	Our Constitution, Our Future - Enshrining Women's Rights in the Iraqi Constitution	Women for Women International	June 2005	(Two-day) Conference Report	N/A	General
22	Windows of Opportunity: The Pursuit of Gender Equality in Post-War Iraq	Women for Women International	January 2005 (re-released March 2005)	Briefing Paper	Information for this report was gathered from four sources (informal household visits in May 2003, a WfW Household Survey of 1,000 women in 2004, casework with socially excluded women and engagement with women leaders and NGOs) in addition to a review of relevant literature and reports.	Iraq-wide but with a concentration of the household survey in Baghdad, Mosul and Basra
23	The other prisoners	Luke Harding in The [British] Guardian	20 May 2004	Newspaper article	Unknown	The report notes that while most of the coverage of the abuse at Abu Ghraib was focused on male detainees, little was then known of the women held at the prison and at other prisons around Iraq
24	Women in Iraq: between fear and freedom	Anita Sharma on Open Democracy (.net)	March 11 2004	Briefing paper on Open Democracy website	Unknown	General
25	Focus on honour killings	IRIN (www.irinnews.org)	February 17, 2004	News article	Interviews and summary of project activities	Dahuk
26	The Taguba Report' Article 15-6 Investigation of the 800th Military Police Brigade	U.S. Army internal investigation	Date in 2004	Investigative report	Interviews of suspects, witnesses and detainees in Iraqi Prisons	Investigations into allegations of abuse, including sexual abuse, at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca Detention Centres in Baghdad
27	Background on Women's Status in Iraq Prior to the Fall of the Saddam Hussein Government	Human Rights Watch	November 2003	Briefing Paper	Desk review	General

28	Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad	Human Rights Watch	July 2003	Research report	Research conducted by HRW in Baghdad 27 May - 20 June 2003. Female researcher spoke to over 70 survivors of sexual violence and abduction, Iraqi police officers, US military police officers, US civil affairs officers, health practitioners, NGOs, intergovernmental orgs and members of the CPA. HRW "found [25] credible reports of women who were victims of sexual violence or abducted, and took direct testimonies from four victims.	Baghdad
29	Our Common Responsibility: The Impact of a New War on Iraqi Children (Gender section)	International Study Team	January 2003	Analysis based on interviews and literature review	Informal interviews with more than 100 Iraqi women conducted between Jan 20 - 26 2003. In-depth info was gathered from more than 20 households, 5 hospitals and 2 markets in South/Central Iraq, including Baghdad, Kerbala and Basra. Also, literature review and meetings with NGOs, UN reps and Iraqi officials.	Women as the primary carers of children Iraq-wide
30	Iraqi Women Under Siege	CODEPINK: Women for Peace and Global Exchange	Undated (approx. second half of 2005)	Research Paper	Iraq	Iraq

## ANNEX 3

(20 sources of data; 113 reports; approximately 21,000 victims of GBV over the period mid-March 2003 to May 2008)

Date of Event or Report	Location	Details of Incident	Source	Category
Reported 18 May 2008	Sulaimaniyah	Ronak (not her real name) was shot three times as she left a women's shelter, to which she had fled after her husband accused her of adultery. Ronak survived the shooting and is now in hiding.	Patrick Cockburn of The Independent, 18 May 2008	Honour-related
Reported 16 May 2008	Kurdistan Region south	Between the 6th and the 16th May, 14 women have been left dead and 17 were wounded, according to a report published in the biweekly Awene. The report states that several of the 14 came under such severe pressure from their families that they committed suicide. Six of the 14 were killed by their relatives for alleged 'sexual experience out of wedlock' and 'social problems'	Reported in Kurdishmedia (London)	Honour-related
Reported 16 May 2008	Kurdistan Region, Dohuk	Between the 6th and the 16th May, 11 women attempted to commit suicide by setting fire to themselves, according to a report published in the biweekly Awene	Reported in Kurdishmedia (London)	Honour-related
Reported 16 May 2008	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah	During the first four months of 2008, 50 women lost their lives in fires; three women have been shot dead and eight women were suffocated, according to a report published in the biweekly Awene.	Reported in Kurdishmedia (London)	Honour-related
Reported 2 May 2008	Kurdistan Region, Grmyan, Sulaimaniyah	Salma (not her real name) is hiding in a women's shelter in the city of Sulaimaniyah after her brothers, fathers and uncles beat her severely when her former boyfriend sent them a recording of intimate conversation he had with Salma. He sent the recording after Salma refused to marry him. She now fears that the family will kill her if they find her.	Amanj Khalil of IWPR, Sulaimaniyah, reported in IWPR Iraqi Crisis Report No. 257, may 2008	Honour-related
28 April 2008	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah, Dukan	Shawbo Ali Rauf (19) was shot seven times by her in-laws after they took her to a picnic area after finding an unknown telephone number on her mobile 'phone.	Terri Judd for The (British) Independent, 28 April 2008, reported on IRIN	Honour-related
28 April 2008	Basra	Rand Abdel-Qader (17) was killed by her father, who reportedly stamped on and suffocated her and then hacked her with a knife, when he learnt she had fallen in love with a 22-year old British soldier. The report says that the father was arrested, held for two hours and then released without charge.	Press Association, reported on yahoo.com	Honour-related

23 April 2008	Baghdad, Al-Salam neighbourhood	MP Safia Al-Suhail has stated that militant groups in the Al-Salam area of Baghdad are hunting down and killing women. She says that, over the past six months 15 women were killed for "religious reasons or because they had criticised the militants, or because of their previous affiliation to the Ba'ath Party". The reports states that, "[r]esidents of the Shia neighbourhood of al-Salam who spoke on condition of anonymity as they fear reprisals, said Shia militiamen in the Madhi Army loyal to radical leader Moqtada al-Sadr were behind the killings".	IRIN, 23 April 2008	Religiously-motivated
Around the 21 April 2008	Kurdistan Region, Erbil	A journalist, Begard Huseein, was murdered in her home. Her husband, Mohammed Mustafa, stabbed because she was in love with another man, according to local reports.	Terri Judd for The (British) Independent, 28 April 2008, reported on IRIN	Honour-related
Unknown date in April 2008	Kirkuk	Two brothers and a sister were kidnapped from their home near Kirkuk by gunmen in police uniforms. The brothers were beaten to death and the woman left in a critical condition after being informed that she must obey the rules of an "Islamic State".	Terri Judd for The (British) Independent, 28 April 2008, reported on IRIN	Religiously-motivated
Unknown date in April 2008	Karbala	In the same report (The Independent, 28 April 2008), the reporter states that "...police in Karbala recently revealed 25 reports of rape".	Terri Judd for The (British) Independent, 28 April 2008, reported on IRIN	Rape and sexual violence
31 December 2007	Basra	133 women killed in 2007 by religious vigilantes or as a result of so-called 'honour killings'. This includes Basra police records on 44 of the victims (24 of whom were identified), who were shot, burnt or strangled; two of the victims had severed limbs, while many of the others had evidence of torture endured prior to death.	UNAMI, HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Honour-related
15 November 2007	Baghdad, Al-Kadhimiya District	Su'ad Kukaz Wali, a director of a secondary school for girls was killed when gunmen shot her as she walked to school	Amnesty International, Jan., 2008	Female professionals
Reported 13 November 2007	Iraq	Male gynaecologists are being targeted by Islamist extremists who accuse them of invading the privacy of women. According to Mayada Zuhair, a spokeswoman for the Women's Rights Association (WRA), two male doctors were "reportedly killed last week after leaving their clinics. A message was left near their bodies saying that was the end of any doctor who insists in invading the privacy of Muslim women". In the same report, an Iraqi Medical Association (IMA) spokesperson, Walid Rafi, said that he personally knew of at least 22 male gynaecologists who had been sent threatening letters. Again in the same report, Yasser Issam, a gynaecologist in Baghdad, said that since 20 October there had been two attempts on his life and he had received a letter warning him to stop treating women as he was offending the privacy of Muslim women.	IRIN 13 November 2007	Male professionals
06 November 2007	Baghdad, Al-Mansour District	A female mathematics teacher was killed by unknown gunmen	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Female professionals
3/4 November 2007	Baghdad, Sayyidia District	A school mistress was shot in the leg	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Female professionals

3/4 November 2007	Baghdad, Sayyida District	Iman Hussain, headmistress of al-Mustaqbal school was killed by gunmen as she entered the school	Amnesty International, Jan., 2008	Female professionals
04 November 2007	Basra, Um Qasr	Bushra 'Abd al-Hur, headmistress of Um Qasr School was shot by armed men in front of her students	Amnesty International, Jan., 2008	Female professionals
A date in September 2007	Kurdistan Region, Erbil	"In September, UNAMI obtained data from the Emergency Hospital in Erbil showing that between January and August 2007, 249 burns cases involving women were admitted to this hospital alone...A further 218 claims were filed at police stations by women alleging abuse. According to additional data provided to UNAMI by the Ministry of State for the Interior, the Erbil Police Directorate registered 19 cases involving honour killings, 262 cases of domestic violence and 66 cases of fatal burns in 2007".	UNAMI, HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Honour-related
August - November 2007	Kurdistan Region	According to the KRG's Minister for Human Rights, 'Aziz Mohammad, between August and November 2007, 27 women (10 from Erbil, 11 from Dohuk and six from Sulaimaniyah) were killed in 'honour killings'.	Reported in Amnesty International, Jan., 2008 and IRIN 6 December 2007	Honour-related
July - December 2007	Kurdistan Region	"Between July and September, UNAMI received information on seven honour-related crimes. A further 29 cases of suspicious deaths and injury involving women were reported in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimaniyah between October and December. In some cases, the women allegedly attempted suicide, typically by burning, to protest spousal abuse or after disputes with family members, while others were found shot dead".	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Honour-related
August - November 2007	Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah	97 women - 60 in Erbil, 21 in Dahuk and 16 in Sulaimaniyah - tried to commit suicide by self-immolation during this four month period, according to Youssif Mohamed Aziz, the Regional Minister of Human Rights in the KRG	IRIN, 6 December 2007	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
July - December 2007	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah and Erbil	The KRG authorities established a department to combat violence against women within the Interior Ministry in Sulaimaniyah and Erbil respectively, which registered some 190 cases by December 2007.		Violence against women
July - December 2007	Baghdad detention facilities	"UNAMI remains gravely concerned at continuing reports of the widespread and routine torture or ill-treatment of detainees [the majority of them male], particularly those being held in pre-trial detention facilities, including police stations... Particularly worrisome were allegations of ill-treatment or other abuse of juvenile males, several of whom at the al-Tobchi facility told UNAMI they had been beaten and sexually abused while held in the custody of the ministries of Interior or Defence prior to their transfer to a juvenile facility."	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 December 2007	Detention - male
Reported 25 October 2007	Baghdad	Reports of boy children aged between 13 and 17 years of age held in prison being abused and tortured with cigarette burns, shock treatment	IRIN 125 October 2007	Detention - male
A date in September 2007	Basra	The bodies of a decapitated woman with that of her decapitated six-year old son lying beside her were found.	According to Major General Abdel Jalil Khalaf, Basra City Police Chief, in a telephone interview with IRIN; reported in IRIN 20 November 2007	Murder

03 August 2007	Kurdistan Region, Diyala, Khanaqin	Sara Jaffar Nimat (11) battered by bricks and stones and then burnt and dumped in an empty building	Organisation of Women's Freedom of Iraq (on <a href="http://www.equalityiniraq.com">www.equalityiniraq.com</a> ), posted 13/08/2007	Honour-related
Reported 2 August 2007	Baghdad, Sadr City	Mother of three, Um Muhammad al-Daraj (35) was taken by militants to the place that her husband was been held hostage and was raped by one of the militants in return for her husband's freedom. Her husband was forced to witness her ordeal and on his return home divorced her for shaming him.	IRIN 2 August 2007	Rape and sexual violence
07 April 2007	Mosul, Beshika village (Ninevah Governorate)	Du'aa Khalil Aswad, 17-year old member of the Kurdish Yezidi religious minority was beaten, kicked and stoned to death, accused of falling in love with a Sunni boy. The stoning was led by the girl's brothers and uncle and was captured on a mobile phone recorder and posted on the web. Local policemen are seen in the recording standing by as the girl is killed.	Various, including Amnesty International, 'Carnage and Despair: Iraq Five Years On' (Jan, 2008) and UNAMI HRO 1 April - 30 June 2007	Honour-related
Reported 24 July 2007	Baghdad	Haifaa Nour, President of the Women's Freedom Organisation (WFO), received a threatening letter warning her to desist from her work as an activist for women's rights. Nour said that employees of the organisation received similar threats and most are afraid to leave their homes. Nour's husband was killed the previous year and she links it to her work in the WFO. In the same report, Fatah Ahmed, the spokesperson for the Iraqi Aid Association said that they had no option but to keep female employees within their offices for fear of being targeted.	IRIN 24 July 2007	Female professionals
1 April - 30 June 2007	Baghdad detention facilities (female)	The cases included those of several women and young girls, one of them a juvenile, interviewed by UNAMI during a visit to the Women's Prison in al-Kadhimiyya. They had alleged being beaten, raped or otherwise sexually abused while held at police stations prior to being transferred to the prison.	UNAMI HRO 1 April - 30 June 2007	Detention - female
1 April - 30 June 2007	Baghdad detention facilities (male)	UNAMI remained gravely concerned at continuing reports of the widespread and routine torture or ill-treatment of detainees, particularly those being held in pre-trial detention facilities under Ministry of Interior facilities, including police stations...A number of those interviewed by UNAMI still bore injuries which were consistent with the type of torture alleged. In addition to routine beatings with hosepipes, cables and other implements, the methods cited included prolonged suspension from the limbs in contorted and painful positions for extended periods, sometimes resulting in dislocation of the joints; electric shocks to sensitive parts of the body; the breaking of limbs; forcing detainees to sit on sharp objects, causing serious injury and heightening the risk of infection; and severe burns to parts of the body through the application of heated implements".	UNAMI HRO 1 April - 30 June 2007	Detention - male
18 June 2007	Baghdad	The mother of Nissrin Muhammad (19) was shot dead for not wearing a veil. Nissrin had to drop out of university to look after her handicapped father and her younger brothers.	IRIN 10 July 2007	Religiously-motivated

Reported 13 June 2007	Baghdad	Mahmoud Rafid (13 years) works on the streets selling chocolates, pens and newspapers. He was sexually abused by some men - no more details.	IRIN 13 June 2007	Rape and sexual violence
30 May 2007	Baghdad	Nur Abdel-Amir, 23 years, has been told that she must marry a man from her own sect. In this same report, Nuha Salim, a spokeswoman for the Baghdad-based NGO, Women's Freedom, said that "There are cases of women who are being forced to sign divorce papers after being threatened by their husband's family because they are from a different sect".	IRIN 30 May 2007	Forced marriage/divorce
Reported 21 May 2007	Baghdad	Nafisa Ridwan (19) forced into working as a prostitute after her father was killed the previous year and she was unable to find work. Her mother has a serious heart condition and she has three younger siblings.	IRIN 21 May 2007	Prostitution and trafficking
17 May 2007	Baghdad	Senar Muhammad, then President of the Women's Freedom Organisation (WFO) was killed by "religious zealots".	IRIN 24 July 2007	Female professionals
Reported 10 May 2007	Baghdad (two mainly Sunni neighbourhoods) and Anbar Province.	Seif Abdul-Rafiz (11) and his two brothers left school to help their unemployed parents make ends meet. Unable to find a job, Seif resorted to making bombs for Sunni insurgents. According to the NGO Iraq Aid Association, reports from Anbar Province and two mainly Sunni neighbourhoods of Baghdad show that children from poor families are helping insurgents make bombs. A man called Abu Katib says that he teaches more than 40 children in Baghdad how to make bombs.	IRIN 10 May 2007	Forced recruitment
Reported 16 April 2007	Baghdad	Mustafa Salim, spokesman for the Rainbow for Life Organisation (RLO), a Baghdad-based gay rights NGO, reports that "more than 30 gays have been executed in Baghdad. RLO was set up in 2005 and has recorded more than 230 cases of abuses against gays and lesbians, including more than 64 deaths - with the three months from February to April being the most bloody	IRIN 16 April 2007	Sexual orientation abuse
Reported 12 February 2007	Baghdad	A report on the increasing number of children (boys and girls) lured into drugs and prostitution on the streets of the city. The report mentions one young boy, Sami Rubaie (12) who ran away from home to escape the beatings from his father for not bringing home enough money for begging. He lives on the streets, sniffs glue and, in order to feed his habit, he joined a gang and now has sex with men in exchange for glue and money	IRIN 12 February 2007	Prostitution and trafficking
First six months of 2007	Kurdistan Region	UNAMI reported that 255 women had been killed in the first six months of 2007. "On 3 June, a spokesperson for the KRG Ministry of Human Rights announced that between March and May, incidents involving violence against women in the Kurdistan region had increased by 18%. Official KRG statistics recorded 15 deaths caused by blunt objects, 87 deaths by burning and 16 deaths by shooting for the first quarter of 2007; for the second quarter, there were 8 deaths caused by blunt objects, 108 deaths by burning and 21 deaths by shooting".	UNAMI HRO 1 April - 30 June 2007	Violence against women

2007 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah	In 2007, nearly 350 women were victims of violence in mobile-phone related cases - audio, photo or video recordings of women in intimate positions or conversations came to the attention of the woman's family - according to statistics compiled by women's organisations and the Sulaimaniyah police directorate.	Amanj Khalil of IWPR, Sulaimaniyah, reported in IWPR Iraqi Crisis Report No. 257, may 2008	Honour-related
Unknown date, 2007	Basra	Sadarists hit a woman attending a student picnic for not wearing a veil, tore off her clothes and then shot two students who tried to intervene - all in front of the police. The girl, humiliated, killed herself shortly afterwards.	Reported to authors of ICG Report 'Where is Iraq heading? Lessons from Basra', Middle East Report No. 67, 25 June 2007	Religiously-motivated
Reported 6 December 2006	Najaf	Najjet Muhammad, a 38-year old mother of three speaks openly of the constant beatings she has received from her husband. The Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) talks about the need for better protection from the law and their families.	IRIN, 6 December 2006	Violence against women
Recent to December 2006	Southern Iraq	A 14-year old girl was raped and then threatened with death by her family when she gave birth to the rapist's baby. The victim was then placed in custody in a criminal remand facility by a judge for her own protection, along with her new born baby, while efforts were made by international and Iraqi organisations to secure shelter for her in northern Iraq. When this process was almost complete, the accused, who was being held on remand, petitioned the court to marry the victim, with the agreement of the victim's family. The accused was released and the two were married.	Reported to authors of ABA/ILDP, Dec. 2006	Rape and sexual violence; honour crimes
Reported December 2006	Iraq	The report says that the Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq estimates that nearly 3,500 Iraqi women have gone missing since 2003 and it suspects that a large number of those women have become victims of sex-trafficking.	The Status of Women in Iraq: Update to the Assessment of Iraq's <i>de jure</i> and <i>de facto</i> Compliance with International Legal Standards. American Bar Association and Iraqi Legal Development Project.	Prostitution and trafficking
Reported December 2006	Iraq (unnamed prison)	Samira Abdallah (38) was released from an Iraqi prison in November 2006 after been held for four months. As she was hooded when she was brought to the prison and was hooded when she was released, she does not know where the prison is. She reports that there were about 20 women there mostly from Fallujah and Ramadi. She states that she, like the others, was hit and humiliated. On her release, she found that her 16-year old daughter had been raped by a soldier and subsequently committed suicide. In the same report, Sarah Abdel Yassin, spokeswoman for the Baghdad-based Organisation for Women's Freedom (OWF) said that she has received many reports of women who were beaten and raped.	IRIN, 13 December 2006	Detention - female
27 November 2006	Baghdad East	A 22-year old Christian student was raped by an Iraqi soldier in her home. She and her brother reported the incident to the police but did not receive any assistance. The young woman is pregnant became pregnant a result of the rape. Her brother helped her find a doctor who performed an abortion	IRIN 7 February 2007	Rape and sexual violence

17 November 2006	Baghdad, Dora District	Jawad Ridwan reports that his wife was found raped, handcuffed and murdered near her home. She was working as a housekeeper for two families and she was abducted after she left her work on the outskirts of Dora.	IRIN 10 September 2007	Rape and murder
15 October 2006	Iraq (an unidentified Iraqi prison)	"Saleh Nizar, a 58-year-old gardener, says he was tortured in an Iraqi prison after he was arrested and accused of participating in an attack in the capital, Baghdad. He was arrested on 15 October 2006 and set free on 5 April 2007 after he was helped by a senior Iraqi officer who said that Nizar was his gardener and that he was definitely innocent. As result of the torture he endured, one of his legs sustained serious injuries and doctors said it might require amputation. Nizar, who has a heart condition which he did not receive treatment for while in prison, now spends much of his time in hospitals and clinics trying to stay alive..."Some detainees were also raped by the officers in front of everyone. And if the victim tried to run away, they hit him with a piece of wood. The suffering I endured in prison was doubled because in addition to the pain that I had after each torture session, there was also the desperate screaming of the other prisoners".	IRIN April 2007	Detention - male. Torture and alleged (male) rape
A date in October 2006	Kirkuk	Halima Ahmed Hussein Al Juburi, Head of the Maternity & Childhood human rights organisation in Kirkuk shot dead by 10 unidentified assailants in her home, in front of her children.	Feminist Daily Newswire, 1/11/06, cited in ABA/ILDP Dec. 2006	Female professionals
A date in May 2006	Baghdad	Youssef Jabry (32), a singer, talks about how his brother, Muhammad, who was also a singer, was killed by extremists, who decapitated him and left a note with the body that said that this was the destiny for those who sing American words. Youssef has himself received warnings to stop singing American songs. In the same report, the Iraqi Artists' Association says that at least 75 singers have been killed since the start of the war in 2003.	IRIN 23 November 2006	Religiously-motivated
A date in March 2006	Baghdad	A woman was shot in the leg "by militants" (according to her husband) for not wearing a veil. Her leg had to be amputated.	IRIN 6 September 2007	Religiously-motivated
A date in March 2006	Mahmoudiya (20 miles south of Baghdad)	Abeer Qassim al-Janabi/Hamza, a 14-year old girl, was raped and murdered, her body burnt to cover up the crime. Her father, mother and sister were murdered. The perpetrators were five US soldiers		Rape and sexual violence
20 December 2006	Baghdad	UNAMI reports that a four-year old girl was found on Baghdad Streets "after running away from her mother who used her for soliciting".	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Prostitution and trafficking
A date in December 2006	Baghdad	"In a suspected honour crime case, a secondary school student was publicly hanged...by armed militia. Her brother was shot dead by the militia for trying to rescue her".	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Honour-related
A date in December 2006	Baghdad, Al-Ghazaliya area	Two women kidnapped on separate occasions; the body of an elementary school teacher was found badly mutilated and the fate of the second kidnap victim remained unknown.	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Abduction

A date in December 2006	Baghdad, Mustansiriya University	Three female students were reportedly kidnapped by Shiite militias. UNAMI reports that "[d]espite the payment of a ransom, their bodies were found at the morgue on 22 December bearing signs of rape and torture. Official sources denied the incident but students from the University confirmed it did take place".	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Abduction, rape, torture and murder
17 October 2006	Kurdistan Region, Erbil City, Nawroze quarter	"... an 18-year-old woman died after setting herself on fire after a family dispute".	UNAMI HRO 1 September - 31 October 2006	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
17 October 2006	Kurdistan Region, Erbil Governorate, Makhmour district	"Ahmed Ali was reportedly arrested after stabbing his daughter during a dispute"	UNAMI HRO 1 September - 31 October 2006	Unknown
14 October 2006	Kirkuk	"A married women reportedly set herself on fire after a family dispute"	UNAMI HRO 1 September - 31 October 2006	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
A date in September 2006	Missan	"... two females were reportedly killed...after their families discovered their engagement in Muta'a marriage."	UNAMI HRO 1 September - 31 October 2006	Honour-related
18 September 2006	Mosul	"...four women, who had been abducted two days earlier, were found dead in a garbage dump. It appears that the victims had been raped and killed and had their faces mutilated".	UNAMI HRO 1 September - 31 October 2006	Abduction, rape, torture and murder
January - August 2006	Najaf	UNAMI reported that "female corpses are usually abandoned at the morgue and remain unclaimed for fear of damaging the family honour. More than 140 bodies were unclaimed and buried in Najaf by the morgue during the reporting period".	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Honour-related
Mid-August 2006	Missan Governorate	Three women killed by unidentified men allegedly for 'honour' reasons	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 August 2006	Honour-related
11 August 2006	Northern Iraq	Two boys and a girl of 14-15 years were killed purportedly after the girl had established a relationship with one of the boys.	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 August 2006	Honour-related
Mid-2006	Baghdad	A study conducted by the Women's Rights Association, a local NGO in Iraq, showed that while fewer than five cases were reported annually during Hussein's era, nearly 60 women have been raped in Baghdad from February to June 2006, while another 80 were abused in other ways. These statistics do not include unreported cases.	OCHA, 'Iraq: Local NGO warns of Rising Cases of Sexual Abuse', IRIN News 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2006 and cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006.	Rape and sexual violence
January - August 2006	Kurdistan Region	A report by the KRG Ministry for Human Rights reported that, in the first eight months of 2006, 239 women had burned themselves and these are suspected honour crimes or attempted suicides.	UNAMI HRO 1 November - 31 December 2006	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
1 January - 1 July 2006	Kurdistan Region, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah	Figures from the Medico-Legal Institutes in the Governorates of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah indicate that the number of females killed in this six month period was 112 and 163 respectively; burning was given as the cause of death in over half the Erbil cases and approx. two-thirds of the Sulaimaniyah cases	UNAMI HRO 1 July - 31 August 2006	Honour-related
Reported December 2006	Najaf	One respondent in the survey conducted by ABA/ILDP for their December 2006 report stated that 15 female students were kidnapped in the space of a single month from a school in Najaf.	Reported in ABA/ILDP December 2006	Abduction

Reported November 2006	Maysan	One interviewee reported that due to extreme poverty, families are selling their daughters to traffickers who are arranging marriages for them in the Gulf. The trafficker marries the girl by proxy, then takes her abroad and gives her to a husband in Dubai. In doing so, "he assures the family that he will marry the girl to a Sheikh, a nice person, and that she will be well taken care of."	Focus group interview in November 2006 for the ABA/ILDP Report December 2006	Prostitution and trafficking
Reported June 2006	Baghdad	Reporting on the increase in the number of women and girls who are raped or sexually abused, the Women's Rights Association said that, while there were fewer than five cases reported each year in the Saddam Hussein era, nearly 60 women had been raped in Baghdad since February 2006 while "another 80 were abused in other ways".	IRIN 14 June 2006	Rape and sexual violence
Reported April 2006	Baghdad, Khadamiyah district	One kidnapped woman was reportedly drugged with pills, dressed in a suicide belt and sent to bomb a cleric's office in Khadamiyah, where she turned herself in to police. A judge gave her a seven year sentence.	Bennett, Brian, 'Stolen Away', TIME Magazine, 23 April 2006, cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006	Abduction
March 2003 - May 2006	Iraq	According to a report called 'Killing for Honour' by Ziad Khalaf Al-Ajely, a 2005 study conducted by the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs reported that of the 400 cases of rape documented since the fall of the regime until the time of the report, more than half the victims were later murdered in honour killings.	'Killing for Honour' by Ziad Khalaf Al-Ajely of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, published at <a href="http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html">www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html</a> and cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006	Rape and honour killings
April 2003 - March 2006	Iraq	Women Freedom Organisation (WFO) carried out a study on the incidents of violence against women since the 2003 US-led invasion and occupation of the country. They report that "more than 2,000 women have been kidnapped in Iraq since April 2003 [to March 2006]". The report also noted that many Iraqi women had been sold as sex workers in Yemen, Syria, Jordan and the Gulf States. The WFO report also noted the large number of female detainees held in Al-Kadhimiya and Abu Ghraib prisons, who are exposed to "different kinds of torture, including sexual abuse". Surra Abdu spent two months in Al-Kadhimiya prison and claims she was sexually abused there.	IRIN 12 March 2006	Kidnapping, prostitution and trafficking and sexual abuse in detention.
Reported March 2006	Baquba	Yehia Abdul Salam (37) says his wife Leila was strangled by her father when she visited him without her veil, which the husband has asked her to take off after their marriage. The husband says that the father was never questioned or detained over the killing.	IRIN 7 March 2006	Religiously-motivated
Reported March 2006	Baghdad - in and around the capital	Two single girls were walking in the local markets without a veil/headscarf and were killed, as were two married women who had abandoned their scarves and veils after marriage at the request of their husbands, according to the Women's Rights Association.	IRIN 7 March 2006	Religiously-motivated
12 March 2006	Baghdad	Two U.S. soldiers were convicted of the rape and murder of a 14-year old girl, Abeer Qasim Hamza	Reported in DCAF (2007), 'Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Global Overview and Implications for the Security Sector'.	Rape and murder

2006 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah	In 2006, nearly 170 women were victims of violence in mobile-phone related cases - audio, photo or video recordings of women in intimate positions or conversations came to the attention of the woman's family - according to statistics compiled by women's organisations and the Sulaimaniyah police directorate.	Amanj Khalil of IWPR, Sulaimaniyah, reported in IWPR Iraqi Crisis Report No. 257, May 2008	Honour-related
2006 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah	17 women were murdered in 2006	According to a November 2007 report by Kurdistan's Human Rights Ministry and cited in IRIN 6 December 2007	Murder
2006 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah	133 women committed suicide by setting themselves on fire in 2006	According to a November 2007 report by Kurdistan's Human Rights Ministry and cited in IRIN 6 December 2007	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
2005 and 2006	Baghdad	An IRIN report quotes a Baghdad-based lawyers' association who says that 15 cases of honour killings had been reported in the previous two years for crimes against homosexuality in Baghdad alone. The same report quotes a father, Abu Qussay, who killed his gay son by hanging him in his house in front of his brother, as saying that he is now considered a hero by his friends for killing his gay son. The father was arrested but released after a month. In the same report, a medical student tells how he lives in constant fear of been killed by his family if they discover that he is homosexual. Also in this report, Maraun Kalif describes how his partner died in prison in 2002 after five days of continuous rape by officials and how he himself survived despite the same treatment.	IRIN, 5 February 2006	Sexual orientation abuse
October 2005 - August 2006	Iraq	According to the Iraqi Lawyers' Association, "Defending the rule of law and women's rights is costing some Iraqi lawyers their lives. Since October 2005, 38 lawyers have been murdered and hundreds attacked for defending cases their enemies say are "against Islam". For example, Salah Abdel-Kader a lawyer and professor who had handled cases of honour killings and custody battles was shot dead in his office on 29 July. A note on his body said that "this is the price to pay for those who do not follow Islamic laws and defend what is dreadful and dirty". Ali al-Nassiri, another Baghdad lawyer who specialised in divorce and custody cases, was killed in a bomb attack on his home in June 2006.	IRIN 16 August 2006	Male professionals
1 November 2005	Iraq	The Monitoring Net of Human Rights in Iraq claimed in November 2005 that "reports confirm that 2,000 women were raped by the occupation troops, especially the American, British, Italian, Polish and Spanish". The same source claims that reports confirm more than 500 "rape incidents" against Iraqi children by occupying troops, including 30 by American forces and 15 by British forces.	MADRE (2007) <i>Promising Democracy, Imposing Theocracy: Gender-based Violence and the US War in Iraq</i> , New York, pg. 16 and UNHCR (October 2005) <i>Country of Origin Information: Iraq</i> , cited in DCAF (2007) <i>Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Global Overview and Implications for the Security Sector</i> .	Sexual violence by occupying forces

A date in November 2005	Baghdad	A 16-year old girl (calling herself Miriam) was sold into the sex trade in Dubai, UAE, by her own father, who believed she was going to work as a domestic, for \$6,000 for a one-year contract. She says that she was kept in a house with 20 other young girls, all of them sex workers. The report states that "while accurate statistics are hard to come by, the Women's Freedom NGO estimates that nearly 3,500 Iraqi women have gone missing since the US-led occupation of Iraq began in 2003 and that there is a high chance that many of them have been traded for sex work. In addition, a May 2006 report by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP spoke of "organised networks dealing with the sex trade" in Syria. The IRIN reports goes on to say that the UN report "made the correlation between the deteriorating conditions of Iraqi citizens and an increase in prostitution and trafficking of Iraqi sex workers".	IRIN 26 October 2006	Prostitution and trafficking
Reported 8 August 2005	Baghdad	Hassan Feiraz (16) works in the sex trade in Baghdad. He is homosexual and claims that he "was forced to work as a prostitute because one of the people [he] had sex with took pictures of me in bed and said, if [he] didn't work for him, he was going to send the pictures to [his] family". Hassan fears that his family will kill him if they discovered he is homosexual.	IRIN 8 August 2005	Prostitution (male)
27 June 2005	Iraq (not stated)	A 24-year-old pregnant Iraqi woman who was accused of adultery and tortured and mutilated by six members of her husband's family. They cut off part of her nose and told her they would kill her after the birth of her child. She fled to Syria, where she obtained refugee status. The men who tortured her were released within 24 hours on the grounds that they were safeguarding family honour.	Amnesty International, 'Iraq: Decades of Suffering - Now Women Deserve Better', (2005)	Honour-related
April 2004 - September 2005	Baghdad	In June 2005, a 28-year old woman was raped by an unknown attacker. She became pregnant and, at the time of the report, was waiting to go for an abortion. She tried to commit suicide but was stopped by her mother. In this same report, Khalid Abdel Kadham, a senior official at the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs said that, while there are no accurate statistics available, nearly 400 cases of female rape and 35 cases of male rape were reported in NGOs since April 2004. An NGO, Women for Peace, believes that the number could be more than double due to under-reporting.	IRIN 14 September 2005	Rape and sexual violence
Late June 2005	Baghdad	Sumeya Abdullah, a 34-year old primary school teacher had her legs burnt with corrosive acid in a street attack because, she believes, she was not wearing her veil and the traditional abaya.	IRIN 4 July 2005	Religiously-motivated
A date in June 2005	Baghdad	Hania Abdul-Jabbar, a 23-year old university student, was attacked in the street by three men, who dropped acid on her face and her legs, cut off her hair and hit her in the face, saying that this was the price for not wearing a veil.	IRIN 4 July 2005	Religiously-motivated
27 April 2005	Baghdad	Transitional National Assembly member Sheikha Lamea Khaddouri shot dead leaving her home.	ALA/ILDP, Dec. 2006	Female professionals

A date in March 2005	Baghdad	Pharmacist Zeena Qushtiny was taken from her pharmacy at gunpoint and her body was found 10 days later with two bullets close to her eyes and wearing an abaya and veil that were not hers. A message was pinned to her saying that "she was a collaborator against Islam".	IRIN 21 March 2005	Female professionals and religiously-motivated.
2005 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah	Four women were killed in the area in 2005.	According to a November 2007 report by Kurdistan's Human Rights Ministry and cited in IRIN 6 December 2007	Murder
2005 (full year)	Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah	36 women committed suicide by setting themselves alight in 2005	According to a November 2007 report by Kurdistan's Human Rights Ministry and cited in IRIN 6 December 2007	Self-immolation (completed or attempted)
2005 (full year)	Baghdad	According to Women's Rights Association, 80 women were attacked and four women killed by their families in 2005 for not wearing a veil/headscarves.	IRIN 7 March 2006	Religiously-motivated
1st quarter of 2005	Latifyah (25kms south of Baghdad)	Sunni radicals have posted leaflets on walls of shops, schools and mosques, prohibiting women from leaving their homes without the traditional abaya and banning them from using make-up. The leaflets say that those women who disobey the warning will be killed. According to Major Quassim Yacoub, a senior officer at the local police station, 11 women were killed in the area up to that point.	IRIN 21 March 2005	Religiously-motivated
January - March 2005	Baghdad	Islamic militants killed 12 women, including gynaecologists, pharmacists and students	IRIN 21 March 2005	Female professionals
January - March 2005	Mosul	Islamic militants killed 20 women, including gynaecologists, pharmacists and students	IRIN 21 March 2005	Female professionals
Unknown date in 2005	Iraq	Saeed Muhammad, a senior official at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, said that unofficial information suggests that there could be as many as 4,000 male commercial sex workers, who are regularly assaulted and exploited by gangs and pimps.	IRIN 8 August 2005	Prostitution and trafficking
2005 (full year)	Iraq	According to a report called 'Killing for Honour' by Ziad Khalaf Al-Ajely of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, a 2005 study conducted by the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs reported that of the 400 cases of rape documented since the fall of the regime until the time of the report, more than half the victims were later murdered in honour killings.	<a href="http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html">www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html</a> and cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006	Honour-related
2005 (full year)	Iraq	According to a report called 'Killing for Honour' by Ziad Khalaf Al-Ajely of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, a 2005 study conducted by the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs reported that of the 400 cases of rape documented since the fall of the regime until the time of the report, more than half the victims were later murdered in honour killings.	<a href="http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html">www.peacewomen.org/news/Iraq/May05/honour.html</a> and cited in ABA/ILDP December 2006	Rape and sexual violence
May 2003 - April 2004	Anbar Province	In this period, five women were reported to have been killed in the province for not following the orders of religious radicals to wear veils and abayas.	IRIN 4 July 2005	Religiously-motivated

Unknown date in 2004	Kurdistan Region, Sulaimaniyah	Footage of a 17-year old girl having sex with a boy circulated in Erbil. Two days after the video was made public, the girl's family killed her. A week after the incident, the boy was also killed by his family.	Amanj Khalil of IWPR, Sulaimaniyah, reported in IWPR Iraqi Crisis Report No. 257, May 2008	Honour-related
Unknown date in October 2003	Kurdistan Region, Erbil	A 23-year old woman was taken to a women's refuge in Erbil after taking refuge in a women's prison for eight months after she was attacked, stabbed and raped by an acquaintance of her father's. Her family vowed to kill her and it was at this stage that she ran away.	IRIN 14 October 2003	Combined
20 September 2003	Baghdad	Interim Governing Council Member Dr. Aqila Al Hashimi shot dead leaving her home	ALA/ILDP, Dec. 2006	Female professionals
Mid-2003	Iraq	"At one police station that [HRW] visited, Iraqi police officers [at al-Karrada police station, June 4, 2003] said that prior to the war they typically received one rape complaint every three months but had seen several cases in the few weeks it had been reopened since the war. Police investigators at the East Baghdad station stated categorically that the number of cases reported was substantially higher than before the war [Iraqi police investigator, June 16, 2003]."	Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July 2003	Rape and sexual violence
Mid-2003	Iraq	"Despite indications from police that there has been an increase in sexual violence in Baghdad, the director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine (Ma'had al-Tibb al-'Adli), Dr. Faek Amin Bakr, told [HRW] that before the war the institute, which is responsible for conducting rape examinations, received approximately [17] to [20] cases of rape per month. He said that since the war the institute had only received one case, but stressed that the institute had turned away victims of sexual violence and had significantly shortened its working hours due to the security situation". HRW documented four cases that they detailed in interview with the survivors, relatives and/or officials who had contact with the survivors.	Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July 2003	Rape and sexual violence
Mid-2003	Baghdad	In addition to the four cases that HRW documented in detail, they received several reports of other women who were abducted and taken outside of Baghdad. For example, US military police reported to HRW that on 17 June 2003, two women came to New Baghdad police station and reported that their companion had just been abducted while they were walking down the street.	Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July 2003	Abduction
Mid-2003	Baghdad	In another case, Dr. Enas al-Hamadi, a doctor at the al-'Alwiyya maternity hospital, told HRW that she had treated two women who had been transferred to the hospital by police on Friday, May 9. The two teens told the doctor that they had been walking down the street when they were abducted by men in a vehicle; they were driven to a location on the outskirts of the town, raped repeatedly, and then returned to Baghdad the next day. According to the doctor the two women had signs of bruising and vaginal tears consistent with their accounts of having been raped.	Human Rights Watch, 'Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad', July 2003	Abduction and rape

25 June 2003	Iraq	In a survey conducted in 2003 by Physicians for Human Rights, the group found that half of those surveyed, both men and women, "agreed that a man has the right to beat his wife if she disobeyed him."	Iraq: Decade of suffering. Now women deserve better. Amnesty International (2005) at 12, citing Lynn L. Amowitz et al: Human Rights Abuses and Concerns About Women's Health and Human Rights in Southern Iraq, in the Journal of the American Medical Association, March 24/31, 2004 (Vol. 291, No. 12) 1471-1479.	Violence against women
Unknown date in 2003	Najaf (among Shi'ite Muslims)	A report on the re-emergence of temporary marriages - Muta'a. Um Hassan, a widow, accepted a Muta'a marriage after she lost her husband in the war of 2003 and needed to find a way to feed her children. She claims she was a sex slave for a month before the man left when the time had expired. Karima Abbas' marriage lasted a week. Afterwards the man left her pregnant and returned to his wife. Karima claims that society now looks upon like a prostitute.	IRIN, 23 January 2006	Religiously-motivated
1999 - March 2003	Baghdad	According to Women's Rights Association, 22 women were attacked and one woman killed between 1999 and March 2003 for not wearing a veil/headscarves.	IRIN 7 March 2006	Religiously-motivated
1991 - July 2003	Southern Iraq	A study included 2,000 Iraqi men and women representing 16,520 households in three cities in southern Iraq. The findings indicated that lifetime prevalence of regime-related sexual assault was 5% and estimated lifetime prevalence of non regime-related sexual violence was up to 6%. The researchers noted that underreporting represented a significant problem.	Amowitz et al (2004) "Human Rights Abuses and Concerns about Women's Health and Human Rights in Southern Iraq" <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> 291(12), 1475-76, cited in DCAF <i>Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Global Overview and Implications for the Security Sector</i> , 2007	Sexual violence
1988	Northern Iraq	According to Das, some 100,000 women were abducted and raped during the Anfal Campaign in 1988	Das, V. (1997) quoted in Hardi, C. 'Sexual' abuse during genocide and its aftermath: Silences from Anfal', <i>Sexual abuse and exploitation of women in violence conflict</i> , Netherlands Defence Academy and Emory University Law School, Amsterdam, 17-19 June 2007, pg. 2.	Abduction and rape