

Ref: TIGO IOR/40/2014.138  
Ms Maria Giovanna Bianchi  
Secretary  
Committee on Enforced Disappearances  
Human Rights Treaties Division  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights (OHCHR)- UNOG  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

1 December 2014

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**  
Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom  
T: +44 (0)20 7413 5500 F: +44 (0)20 7956  
1157  
E: [amnestyis@amnesty.org](mailto:amnestyis@amnesty.org) W: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

## INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE ADOPTION OF THE LIST OF ISSUES ON IRAQ

Dear Ms Bianchi,  
Amnesty International would like to provide the following background information to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances in advance of the adoption of the list of issues on Iraq in February 2015.

***Iraq: A decade of abuses***, MDE 14/001/2013, 11 March 2013, available at:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/001/2013/en>

Ten years after the US-led invasion that overthrew President Saddam Hussein, Iraq remains mired in human rights abuses. Armed groups opposed to the government continue to kill and maim large numbers of civilians in suicide and other bomb attacks. In response, the authorities have engaged in widespread detentions, torture, unfair trials and executions. This report describes some of the worst human rights abuses in Iraq today and calls for urgent state action to address them and ensure full accountability.

***Iraq: Absolute impunity: Militia rule in Iraq***, MDE 14/015/2014, 14 October 2014, available at:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/015/2014/en>

In recent months, Shi'a militias have been abducting and killing Sunni civilian men in Baghdad and around the country. These militias, often armed and backed by the government of Iraq, continue to operate with varying degrees of cooperation from government forces – ranging from tacit consent to coordinated, or even joint, operations. Amnesty International holds the government of Iraq largely responsible for the serious human rights abuses, including war crimes, committed by these militias.

***Iraq: Open letter to Iraq's new Prime Minister***, MDE 14/013/2014, 19 September 2014, available at:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/013/2014/en>

In this open letter, Amnesty International urges the newly formed government of Iraq to promote and protect human rights. The organization expresses concern that civilians were killed by Iraqi armed forces in their fights against IS. Past violations have not been addressed, fuelling a state of permanent impunity for abuses and contributing to the current situation of discontent and instability. It is of utmost importance that human rights abuses are addressed as a matter of urgency.

***Northern Iraq: Civilians in the line of fire***, MDE 14/007/2014, 14 July 2014, available at:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/007/2014/en>

The takeover in early June by the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, and other towns and villages in north-western Iraq has resulted in a dramatic resurgence of sectarian tensions and the massive displacement of communities fearing sectarian attacks and reprisals. Amnesty International has also gathered evidence pointing to a pattern of extrajudicial executions of detainees by Iraqi government

forces and Shi'a militias. Air strikes launched by Iraqi government forces against ISIS-controlled areas have also killed and injured dozens of civilians, some in indiscriminate attacks.

We would appreciate if you would distribute a copy of the reports and this letter to the Committee members. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Karin Holmlund  
International Advocacy Program