

**Draft Statement of H. E. Minister of Human Rights to discuss the
Child's Reports in Geneva**

** Unofficial translation **

Head of Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Child

Members of Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen

I and the delegation of the Federal Republic of Iraq have the honor to participate in the session (68th) of your esteemed Committee that will discuss the submitted report of Iraq on CRC according to Article (44) of the Convention and the report of the Optional Protocol of CRC on the involvement of children in the armed conflicts according to Paragraph (1) of Article (8) and the report of the Optional Protocol of CRC on the sale of children, Child prostitution and Child pornography according to Paragraph (1) of Article (12); So, let me introduce the members of delegation:-

1. Dr. Mohamed Saber Ismail - Permanent Representative of the Republic Iraq in Geneva
2. Mr. Kamel Ameen, Director-General in the Ministry of Human Rights.
3. Mr. Ma'ath Nuri Mulahuash, Legal adviser in the Ministry of Human Rights.
4. Mr. Abd Al-Hadi Abd Al-Redha, representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
5. Mrs. Taqreed Ismael, representative of the Ministry of Interior.
6. Dr. Nidhal Ibrahim, representative of the Ministry of Health.
7. Mr. Omar Al-Adhami. Permanent mission of the Republic of Iraq – Geneva

8. Mr. Hern Abd Al-Kareem, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs \ Human Rights Dept.

Today, we are present to discuss the second, third and forth report of Iraq on the developments in the field of Human Rights, especially on the Child. The Republic of Iraq with its all institutions pays a great attention to children in order to protect their rights and ensure that all children enjoy them. The report has been prepared and written based on cooperative methodology between a group of governmental bodies from different sectors headed by the Ministry of Human Rights and representatives of (the General Secretariat of Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Displacement and Immigration and a representative from KRG). After finishing the initial draft of the report, it has been published on the website of the Ministry of Human Rights for more than a month and advertised in three main newspapers in the country to receive the remarks from the Civil Society Organizations, academics and interested persons. The National Center of Human Rights in the Ministry of Human Rights has held courses and workshops to the employees of the government and the civil society for educating about what it is mentioned in the convention, then the report has been submitted to the Cabinet which ratified it before sending it to the concerned Committee. This ratification embodies the political will that aims to promote and protect human rights for all Iraqi components.

Dear Chairman,

The delegation of Iraq attends this session to confirm its commitment on implementation of the items of convention and its endeavoring to cooperate and continue the work with your committee for achieving the best ways that contribute in making rights and implementing them in reality. Despite the difficult conditions that our country experiences at the security, political, social and economic levels, today Iraq faces serious challenges presented by the ISIL terrorist groups which seized its control on some cities in Al-Mosul and the surrounding

areas in Salahalddin ,Diyalah and Al-Anbar in an aggressive and brutal way threatening the lives of hundred thousands of innocent civilians especially the sons of the religious and ethnic components from Christians ,Turkmen ,Yezidi and Shabak , the ISIL committed crimes rising to war crimes and genocide represented by heinous massacres , mass executions and torture. Children were one of the victims of these crimes as an example for their brutality of what they did when they attacked TalAfar city which was lived by 300 thousands citizens and also the cities of (Basheer and Tazah) that were inhabited by more than a hundred thousand citizens. In addition to the crimes committed by the terrorist groups in the city of Sinjar and in the Nineveh Plain.

About two and a half million citizen were displaced, 30% of them are children. In reliable statistics for the UNICEF, 858 children were lost or separated from their families, and about 243 girls and 613 boys in the time of displacement or after the military operations of ISIL gangs. The Amnesty International and other organizations recorded the testimonies of the female survivors from kidnapping, exploitation and sexual slavery of the terrorist groups, most of them were under 18 years old . What happened in Iraq needs international concerted efforts to support Iraq in facing this blind terrorism and support the efforts of the international organizations and the friendly countries to limit the suffering of the displaced especially the children.

Unlike other children in the world, Iraqi children have suffered during the last period. The childhood suffered during the ex- dictatorial regime because Iraq was segregated from the developed world and a big prison controlled by one man and one party as result of the reckless policy and absurd wars which left behind hundreds of thousands of orphans ,homeless and disabled people in addition to the thousands of persons who involved in working because they lost their breadwinner and left schools which led to spread the phenomena of illiteracy in the Iraqi community. So there was no law and no elections.

After 2003 Iraq changed towards real democracy and became open to the world. Today, the third session for the parliament and the third elected government and the process of peaceful authority exchange, the same in the provinces councils and the return of Iraq to its normal life . In the same time Iraq was targeted because it adopted democratic and

peaceful methodology and elections which the extremists and ta'kferes considered it as a heresy but in fact it is rooting up the dictatorship and chauvinism, this matter lead to existence of some terrorist groups where children the victims of these criminal acts . This is reflected directly on the enjoyment of children on their rights to education, health and social welfare. Children have suffered from losing the breadwinner, poverty, homelessness ,the political prosecution of opponents of the regime and killing them.

Iraqi State after 2003 brings justice to those people through establishing the institutes of the transitional justice such as Political Prisoners Foundation, Martyrs Foundation, the Commission on Property Claims that returned the confiscated houses by the ex-regime and Law for the Return of the Dismissed Politicians in addition to other programs and laws which dealt with the effects of the past violations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the enormous challenges that faced the governmental programs, Iraqi State has been able to achieve good progress in the field of eradicating poverty which its rates reduced from 22.9% in 2007 to 18.9% in 2012, the rate of joining the primary education amounted to 90.4% in 2011 after it was 89% in 2009, the rate of female to male joining the primary stage reached 0.94% in 2011. In the field of health and concerning the rate of infant deaths, every 1000 alive infants decreased to 17.4% in 2013 after it was 28 death birth in 2012 .

In terms of building the institutions related to child, we developed:-

1. Family Court
2. Four courts specialized in the domestic violence
3. Directorate of Family protection in the Ministry of Interior

4. Offices receive the complaints of the citizens in all the governmental institutions affiliated to the Department of Citizens Affairs in the General Secretariat of the Ministers' Council.
5. The High Commission of Human Rights also deals with receiving the complaints that related to human rights.
6. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Kurdistan region 2011 operated a phone line (#116) to protect the child's services and to refer them to social or mental or medical specialists, alternative care service, sheltering services, judicial services, social police and hospitals.

Concerning the legislations, some laws were issued such as, Law on Encountering the Trafficking in Persons 2012, and Law on Preventing the Violence-motivated Games in 2013, Law on Grants of Public School Students in 2014, Code of the Social Protection in 2013 , Law on Illiteracy Eradication in 2011, Law on Non-obligation of the Iraqi person to Change his Nationality in 2012, Law of Disables and Persons with Special Needs in 2013, Law of Anti-Smoking in 2012, Law of the Rights and Privileges of the Persons with Special Needs in 2011 in Kurdistan Region.

The ISIL terrorist attacks that happened in several provinces required that the Government should undertake an urgent action plan to resolve the consequences of these terrorist attacks in addition to dealing with the problem of the displaced persons in terms of ensuring the living requirements, appropriate residence, guaranteeing that their sons join the schools in their different school years and providing all health needs because a lot of children, especially the new-born children, face death in this severe coldness and unhealthy environment in the places of displacement. The Iraqi government pursues to gain international support from the member states , especially for the children who suffer from the difficulties.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, we would like to shed light upon Iraq's legacy of wrong policies in which a large category of Iraqi people with social and cultural heritage were the victims, that restrict all people to enjoy their rights. We hope that we presented a clear image about Iraq's commitments towards the Convention of Child's Rights. In the name of Republic of Iraq, we would like to present our thanks and gratitude to Your highly regarded committee for its cooperation and technical experience in this field, reminding your excellencies about the gravity of challenges that our country faces which make our priorities in a continuous change. We kindly look forward to receiving your notes and recommendations through which we hope to put clear plans to create an environment clear from violations and to respect the rights according to the international standards that we all pursue to reach them .we look forward to receiving the technical support to implement the Convention in conformity with international standards. We also extend our thanks to the Iraqi civil society organizations which were our partners to prepare the report through their follow-up and notices and will remain active partners in achieving and respecting human rights in Iraq.

Please Accept Our Highest Consideration and Respect.

Mohammed Mahdi Al-Bayati

The Head of Iraqi Delegation

Minister of Human Rights

