

STATEMENT BY
H.E. MS. WIJDAN SALEM
MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS – IRAQ

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
FOURTH SESSION
14 MARCH, 2007-03-14 GENEVA

To H.E head of human rights council and the respectable members
Esteemed high commissioner of human rights,
The Excellencies of ministers
Representatives of states and ambassadors,
Dear ladies and gentlemen

Thanks indeed for having this opportunity to stand before you in this huge ceremony, and we greeting all ladies and gentlemen from states and organizations and non governmental organizations working in the promotion of human rights scale.

Since the topple of the former regime Iraq witnessed a very sensitive situation and a heavy terrorist attacks and become a battlefield for different sides because of it's open borders which encourage the criminals to come and kill the innocent people in Iraq. There is no doubt that we are witnessing a various kinds of violations, in particular the violation of the right to life, and this is because of the hard historical circumstances which Iraq witnessed, also we are facing the terror which is considered as the greatest global risk threaten the peace and stability of the world, in addition to the economical, social, and cultural violation and this is because of the administration and financial corruption and the domain of the violence in the Iraqi society.. But although of this situation the Iraqi government is working hardly to promote the security situation for the people and specify a fundamental target representing by respecting and promoting of human rights scale through governmental and non governmental institutions.

Mr. President

Iraq is trying to establish high institutional system concerning with following aspects :-

- protection of human rights and refrain of violation in human rights
- Dealing with heavy burden left by former regime and what stem from it of such violations.
- Dissemination of human rights education as an alternative education for violence and war which had been prevails for decades.

For this purpose the Iraqi government had established a new Ministry interested with human rights issues, this ministry is trying with speedy way to train its staff and other related parties concerning with law enforcement and peer ministries to the ministry of human rights as well as activists of non governmental organizations . Hereby, we greatly thank all states and donors parties which contributing seriously to further staff of ministry and activists in human rights scale to their functions especially united nations assistance mission in Iraq, (UNAMI) and European union and other donor parties . The ministry is working now to monitor human rights violations and disseminating human rights education through the following groups: .

- special groups concerning with monitoring detentions and prisons whether being under Iraqi authorities or multi national forces

- special groups concerning with service field monitoring as well as insurance of getting all Iraqis best given service in education , health , and others.
- Special groups dealing with mass graves, missing , and involuntary disappearance
- Special groups dealing with woman's right and disable.
- Group concerning with cooperation with international parties and NGOs
- Groups dealing training and holding conferences , seminars , workshops.
- Groups to prepare studies , researches , reports .

Mr. . president ,

A state like Iraq in the conditions it gone through , it would not be easy to it to step forward all these steps ahead towards democracy and pluralism and political participation for all Iraqi spectrum , and that what had been incarnated through the elections during three past years which woman had a great role in political participation and having its representation in parliament .

Today Iraq witness a new constitutional framework since the new Iraqi constitution is including a special chapter comprised the most significant instruments, also it underlines the woman's right to ensure her full enjoyment with human rights and elimination of all forms of discrimination against woman.

The Iraqi Government is working to make Iraq a state party through endorsing on international covenants in which it had never been signed by Iraq before especially anti torture convention as well as the modern international covenant concerning with human rights promotion for disable , also the special covenant concerning with promotion of disappearance moreover , it working on withdrawal reservations in which Iraq endorse before , furthermore , the ministry is preparing a special group to write down regular reports for covenant parties about the charters which Iraq had been a state party .

Mr. President

The ministry of human rights follow up many violation cases happened to Iraqi people such as the active role of the ministry for the investigations and follow up the American soldiers who rape the Iraqi child "Sabren al janaby "and then killed her with her family, so now some of them had been sentenced with long imprisonment .

the ministry is established wide network of bureaus over all parts of Iraq to ensure its existence in all parts of Iraq by granting all these bureaus the financial , and technical support to achieve best performance . Today the ministry is working on achieving several projects like missing centre and disappearance and dealing with mass graves victims dossier through training personnel and establishment of labs concerning identification of remains, moreover setting up labs dealing human rights.

Also the ministry is working on dissemination of human rights education in universities and schools and even kindergarten via programs and publications and others , also the ministry is deeply working on that concern and to reconsider all curriculums with coordination of ministry of education and ministry of higher scientific and research and other concerned parties .

To make the board of promotion human rights is fully independent from any political or governmental impact , the ministry is actuating article (102) from the current constitution which concerning to prepare special law of high commission of human rights in Iraq with association with united nations experts in which right now in its final steps .

Mr. President

The audience

Today we are working very hard on preparing the atmosphere to abolish the death penalty in Iraq after decreasing such penalty to minimum; and limited to the current circumstances of Iraq. also we are working to make Iraq among states parties on optional protocol on international covenant on civil, political rights which deal with abolishment of death penalty .the Iraqi courts didn't sentence such punishment except what is related with crimes of mass genocide , humanitarian crimes, crimes of war, intended crimes , and crimes of kidnapping. Informing that the Iraqi courts give guarantees to the sentenced persons through appeal process.

Mr. President...

The prime minister, Mr. Norri AL- Maliki had launched a strong initiative for national reconciliation stated on rejection violence with all its forms and adoption political dialogue aiming to rebalance the trust to those whom they felt out of political process also the adoption of protection of human rights and brought perpetrators to trail irrespective of their nationality belongings .

the security plan of Baghdad is considered as a fundamental step because it is focusing not only on the military side but also other sides which aimed to promote the social and economical situations for the Iraqi people through supporting projects aimed to decrease the rate numbers of unemployment in addition to the projects of social protection and basic services.

In addition to that, the international conference for Iraq that hold in Baghdad on 10/3/2007 is considered as one of the steps of the national reconciliation initiative that will be completed through holding other conferences such as the foreign ministers conference that will be held on April in Turkey.

Mr. . President

The Iraqi government had launched an initiative under the name (international covenant) aiming to establish new partnership with international community to consolidate the peace process and pursuing development in all social , economic , political aspects and throughout a number of long, short term projects , and by then the tools and strategies had been determined to achieve this purpose in international covenant in which deal with human rights and democracy as essential part to back up the presidency of law and curb down corruption and punish perpetrators through this partnership between Iraq and international community and promotion of external support via technical assistance and donations .

Mr. President,

The current Iraqi government is new born one working on consolidation of freedoms and respect of human rights , but we need international support from states and parties in order to make our steps very solid with right direction to cope with international community especially in human rights aspects , these steps are just preliminary steps to render Iraq human rights q among states which human rights are respected and by God Will , Iraq will be so with efforts of its staff and other ministry staff and NGOs in Iraq .

Thank you