

March 31, 2020

Statement by KRG's Coordinator Office for International Advocacy (OCIA)

KRG Appreciates OHCHR Special Rapporteur Comments on the Human Rights Status of IDPs

United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damar, released a conclusive statement yesterday about IDPs status in Iraq and Kurdistan Region. The statement is a summary of her notes and assessments regarding the aforementioned issue in her official eight-days mission in Iraq, which took place from the mid to 23rd, 2020.

It is worth noting that we have welcomed Ms. Cecilia in our office before. We have illustrated our concerns and recommendation to her, and she has taken them with great importance. We have a collaborative connection with her that enjoys reciprocity and constant cooperation.

In the statement, she commended and appreciated KRG's role in incorporating millions of IDPs and refugees, while its resources have been overwhelmed due to the economic crisis and the war on terror. She accordingly asserted that the Federal Government and the international community should lend more assists to KRG. Ms. Cecilia also praised the existing agreement between KRG and the Ninawa governorate in regard to the return of IDPs to the disputed area.

Moreover, the statement claims that IDPs who have been prosecuted for affiliation to ISIL are under the danger of being arrested again, if they visited their area of origin. The statement traces back this problem to having two different counterterrorism laws in the Federal Government and KRG, respectively.

Concerning IDPs status in Iraq in its entirety, she asserted that IDPs are either lack access, or have limited access, to education, food, sanity, and medical care. The statement also claims that there is a restriction on movement from inside and outside of the camps.

Furthermore, OHCHR's Special Rapporteur stated that female IDPs who were ISIL affiliates are reportedly face sexual violence and harassment. Ms. Cecilia referred to enhancing efforts of reconciliation of Yezidi women who were held captive by ISIL militants and who have children from them.

She also called for improvement in IDP children conditions, facilitation of civil documentation renewal, and easing the official procedures of permitting humanitarian organizations to deliver aids to IDP camps.

The KRG's Coordinator Office for International Advocacy welcomes the sincere comments from Ms. Cecilia, and will deliver the concerns to the relevant counterparts.

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