



## COI QUERY

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>IRAQ</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Major political, security, human rights, socio-economic developments</b>
<b>Reference period</b>	1 April to 31 July 2024
<b>Topics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <a href="#">Political situation</a></li><li>2. <a href="#">Security situation</a></li><li>3. <a href="#">Human rights situation</a></li><li>4. <a href="#">Socio-economic situation</a></li></ol>
<b>Date of completion</b>	22 August 2024
<b>Query Code</b>	Q59-2024
<b>Contributing EU+ COI units</b>	N/A

---

### Disclaimer

This response to a COI query has been elaborated according to the [EUAA COI Report Methodology](#) and [EUAA Writing and Referencing Guide](#).

Query responses are produced in response to COI information requests received from asylum authorities within EU+ countries or initiated by EUAA based on COI information needs. Query responses are produced within a limited time period, typically within 5 to 10 days. Within these time constraints, the information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care.

All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

The information in the response does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EUAA and makes no political statement whatsoever. The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision-making authorities. Any event taking place after the reference period is not included in this query response.

Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Iraq: Major political, security, human rights, socio-economic developments, 22 August 2023, [url](#)



## COI QUERY RESPONSE – Iraq

### Major political, security, human rights, socio-economic developments

#### 1. Political situation

In April, Iraqi prime minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani met with US President Joe Biden in Washington, amid an escalation of tension in the region following Iran’s aerial attacks against Israel.<sup>1</sup> Both leaders announced the establishment of a Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue intended at creating conditions for ‘a sustainable bilateral relationship between the two partners in the security and military fields.’<sup>2</sup> The future of US-led coalition’s mandate in Iraq has remained unclear, amid pressure from Iran-aligned militias who are pushing for US withdrawal from the country.<sup>3</sup> In July, talks between Iraqi and US administration have resumed about the future of the 2 500 US troops present in the country.<sup>4</sup>

A new date for parliamentary elections in the KRI was set for 20 October 2024.<sup>5</sup> Originally scheduled to be held in 2022, the elections were postponed for 10 June 2024, but eventually boycotted by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to protest against a ruling by Iraq's federal supreme court. Such ruling cancelled 11 seats reserved for minority groups (including Turkmen, Assyrians and Armenians) and changed the electoral system by dividing the Kurdistan region into four constituencies rather than the previous single-constituency system. In May 2024, the court issued a new ruling restoring 5 seats reserved to minorities, leading to an ease of tension and the acceptance by the KDP to participate in October elections.<sup>6</sup> The Kurdistan regional election will reportedly take place in a climate characterised by controversies over minorities representation, unresolved legal disputes with Baghdad, tensions between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and disillusionment of the population, which ‘perceive the institutions as corrupt and interested in maintaining the *status quo*’.<sup>7</sup>

Tensions between Baghdad and Erbil over delayed payments have reportedly eased, as the Federal government released funds in April to pay the salaries of civil servants and social security beneficiaries in the KRI.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> AP, Biden hosts Iraqi leader after Iran’s attack on Israel throws Mideast into greater uncertainty, 15 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> US: White House, Remarks by President Biden and Prime Minister Mohammed Shyaa al-Sudani of the Republic of Iraq Before Bilateral Meeting, 15 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>3</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#)

<sup>4</sup> Al Monitor, US resumes talks with Iraq over future of troop presence, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> Rudaw, Kurdistan Region to hold parliamentary elections October 20, 26 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> Reuters, Iraq’s Kurdistan region to hold delayed parliamentary election on Oct. 20. 26 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> ISPI, Deferred democracy: the impact of election delays in Iraqi Kurdistan, 6 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made his first state visit to Iraq since 2011. Meeting with president and prime minister of Iraq, the leaders discussed greater cooperation on Türkiye's fight against the PKK, as well as other issues, including water supply, exports of oil and gas from northern Iraq to Türkiye.<sup>9</sup> Several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoU) were reportedly signed between the two countries, in areas including defense, energy, trade, infrastructure, education, tourism. During what was deemed as 'an historic visit', Erdogan also met with Kurdish president Nechirvan Barzani and prime minister Masrour Barzani in Erbil and discussed 'counterterrorism as well as regional and global issues'.<sup>10</sup>

On 5 May, Nechirvan Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and leader of the KDP met with Iranian President Raisi and Supreme Leader Khamenei in Tehran, in efforts aimed at normalising relations and overcoming historic tensions.<sup>11</sup>

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) announced to have extended its mandate until 31 December 2025, after which it will cease its operations in the country.<sup>12</sup> Such decision followed a letter by Iraqi prime minister Al-Sudani to UN Secretary-General António Guterres in May 2024, requesting the end of the mission.<sup>13</sup>

## 2. Security situation

### 2.1 Türkiye

Türkiye continued military operations in northern Iraq<sup>14</sup> conducting airstrikes against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Dohuk governorate,<sup>15</sup> in mountains Asos<sup>16</sup> Hakurk, Gara and Qandil regions of Kurdistan region, claiming to have killed dozens of PKK members.<sup>17</sup> Clashes with PKK killed two Turkish soldiers in April<sup>18</sup> and May.<sup>19</sup> In June, Türkiye security forces said to have 'neutralised' 11 PKK militants in northern Iraq.<sup>20</sup> During the same month, Turkish authorities announced to have extended flight ban on Sulaymaniyah international airport until December due to alleged PKK infiltration.<sup>21</sup>

Following a previously announced expansion of military operations against the PKK in northern Iraq (as well as against the People's Defense Units - YPG - in Syria) during the

---

<sup>9</sup> AP, Kurdish separatists and water issues loom large in long-awaited visit of Turkey's Erdogan to Iraq, 22 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> AA, Iraqi media hails Turkish president's visit to Baghdad, Erbil as historic, 23 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>11</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> UN News, Resolution 2732 (2024) Adopted by the Security Council at its 9642nd meeting, 5 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> CFRI, Iraqi Government Challenges UNAMI's Presence: What Are the Implications?, 21 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>14</sup> Reuters, Turkey strikes northern Iraq from air, says it kills PKK members, 6 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>15</sup> Shafaq, Turkish airstrikes target PKK sites in Duhok, northern Iraq, 13 June 2024, [url](#); AA, Turkish security forces destroy 37 PKK targets in northern Iraq, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>16</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#)

<sup>17</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#)

<sup>19</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#)

<sup>20</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)

<sup>21</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)



summer,<sup>22</sup> on 15 June, Türkiye launched a new ground military operation in the Berwaly Bala area, in the KRI. Turkish forces set up a checkpoint between Babire and Kani Belave villages, and built seven new military bases in the Shive, Kani Tuia, Zireze, Demka, Bilejan, Korca and Gre Bia villages, in Dohuk governorate.

According to the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT), a US-based war monitor, by the first week of July, Turkish forces had advanced 15 kilometers deep into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, forcing the displacement of civilians in Sargale village. At least 162 civilians were reportedly displaced, and some 602 villages at risk of displacement due Turkish military operation. Civilians in Miska and Dirleki village, situated in northern Dohuk, were reportedly displaced as a result of the conflict between Türkiye and PKK and residents were prevented to return by Turkish forces.<sup>23</sup> Between 4 and 5 July, Turkish airstrikes hit civilian houses in Guharze village, damaging 3 civilian houses and a car, while a monastery was damaged by fighter jets in Miska village in the Amedi district. Since the start of this new military operation in mid-June, Turkish forces reportedly conducted 238 bombardments in the KRI, primarily in Duhok governorate. Over 2 000 hectares of agricultural lands have burned due to airstrikes, mainly in the villages of Guharze, Balave, Barche, Sargale, Kane, and Ashke Dere in the Amedi region. In the village of Sargale, approximately 55 % of agricultural land has reportedly been damaged by the airstrikes.<sup>24</sup> Reportedly, seven villages in Dohuk have been evacuated due to the clashes between Turkish forces and PKK in early July.<sup>25</sup> On 8 July, a Turkish drone hit a vehicle in the village of Tel Qasab in Sinjar district, Ninewa governorate, reportedly belonging to the PKK. The drone attack caused ‘multiple casualties’,<sup>26</sup> including two Iraqi Kurdish journalists, one of whom died.<sup>27</sup>

On 13 July, President Erdogan announced the imminent end of Türkiye’s operations against the PKK in northern Iraq and Syria, stating that the PKK fighters had been ‘completely trapped’ inside Iraq and Syria, and ‘incapable of acting’ across Turkish borders.<sup>28</sup> On 24 July, Turkish security forces announced to have conducted ‘precision’ airstrikes in Sulaymaniyah,<sup>29</sup> killing three senior members of the PKK.<sup>30</sup> On 26 July, Türkiye’s Ministry of Defense announced to have conducted airstrikes on PKK targets in Gara, Qandil, and Asos regions, destroying 25 PKK positions, including locations housing senior figures.<sup>31</sup> On 30 July, a Turkish aircraft

---

<sup>22</sup> Duvar English, Turkish President Erdoğan plans mass military operation in Iraq, Syria against PKK, 11 March 2024, [url](#); CTP, What are Turkish Armed Forces aiming for in Iraqi Kurdistan?, 27 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>23</sup> CTP, An overview of the recent Turkish military actions in Iraqi Kurdistan, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> CTP, An overview of the recent Turkish military actions in Iraqi Kurdistan, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>25</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> Al Monitor, Baghdad silent as Turkey moves deeper against PKK militants in northern Iraq, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>27</sup> CPJ, Strike injures 2 Iraqi Kurdish reporters in Sinjar, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>28</sup> France24/AFP, Erdogan says end near for military operation in north Iraq, Syria, 13 July 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>29</sup> Türkiye Today/Anadolu Agency, Türkiye executes precision operation in Iraq’s Sulaymaniyah, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> Basnews, Turkish Airstrike Kills PKK Senior Member in Sulaymaniyah, 24 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>31</sup> Shafaq, Turkiye conducts airstrikes on PKK targets in northern Iraq, destroys 25 sites, 27 July 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), Turkey stages artillery strikes on Kurdish fighters in Iraq, [url](#), 27 July 2024



targeted PKK positions in Gara Mountains, burning farms and forests due to the resulting fire.<sup>32</sup> On the same day, Türkiye's Ministry of Defense announced to have 'neutralised' 13 PKK members in Gara and Haftanin regions.<sup>33</sup>

## **2.2 Iran-backed militias**

In April, Iran-backed militias resumed attacks against US forces<sup>34</sup> since their last attack in February 2024. Rockets launched from Zummar town, in Ninewa governorate, targeted a US base in Syria. The US responded by shooting down drones near Ain al-Asad air base in Anbar governorate.<sup>35</sup> Amid unprecedented escalation between Iran and Israel in April,<sup>36</sup> Iran-backed self-proclaimed armed groups known as Islamic Resistance in Iraq (IRI)<sup>37</sup> claimed over two dozen drone and missile attacks in May, targeting Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv, Haifa, Eilat, Ashkelon as well as Nevatim military base.<sup>38</sup> Drone attacks by Iran-affiliated militias against Israeli targets continued in June<sup>39</sup> and July.<sup>40</sup> On 30 July, US struck a Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) base in Babil governorate in what has been described by US officials as a defensive airstrike, targeting militants allegedly preparing to launch drones. The airstrike, which prompted the condemnation of Sudani's office,<sup>41</sup> caused the death of four combatants.<sup>42</sup>

## **2.3 Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**

In its quarterly report covering the period between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2024, the US Department of Defense (USDOD) reported that no significant changes were recorded in terms of ISIL's tactics or areas of operations, which remained mainly located across governorates west and north of Baghdad.<sup>43</sup> However, sources observed a resurgence of ISIL in Iraq.<sup>44</sup> In July, US officials stated that attacks claimed by ISIL in both Iraq and Syria have increased

---

<sup>32</sup> Shafaq, Turkish airstrike hits PKK positions in Duhok Governorate, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>34</sup> Al Monitor, New attacks near US bases in Iraq, Syria threaten uneasy detente, 22 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>35</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#)

<sup>36</sup> ISPI, Israel-Iran Escalation: Reactions from the Region and Beyond, 17 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>37</sup> The so-called Islamic Resistance emerged as an umbrella term in October 2023 in the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, with the aim of demonstrating unity among Iran-affiliated armed groups; TWI, Profile: The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, last updated 30 October 2023, [url](#)

<sup>38</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#)

<sup>39</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> ISW and CTP, Iran Update, Iran Update, July 15, 2024, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 8; International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d., [url](#); EPIC, ISHM: JULY 11 – 18, 2024, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>41</sup> Rudaw, Iraq condemns US retaliatory strike on pro-Iran forces in Babil, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Reuters, US carries out strike in Iraq as regional tensions worsen, 31 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>42</sup> Rudaw, US says it conducted 'defensive strike' in Iraq's Babil, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Al Monitor, 30 July 2024, US strikes Iran-backed militia in Iraq amid Hezbollah-Israel tensions, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>43</sup> USDOD, Operation Inherent Resolve and other U.S. Government Activities related to Iraq & Syria, April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, 1 August 2024, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>44</sup> Al-Monitor, ISIS resurgence in Iraq sees fresh attacks, clashes after commander killed, 14 May 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, US says ISIL trying 'to reconstitute' amid uptick in Syria, Iraq attacks, 17 July 2024, [url](#); Shafaq, ISIS resurgence linked to security vacuums in Kirkuk, says official, 14 July 2024, [url](#)



during 2024 and are expected to double last year's count.<sup>45</sup> In what it was deemed as the 'deadliest ISIS attack in months'<sup>46</sup>, on 14 May, ISIL killed an Iraqi commanding officer and four soldiers, injuring another five soldiers between Diyala and Salah al-Din governorates.<sup>47</sup> Other attacks by ISIL were carried out on 15 May and on 22 May, killing two soldiers in al-Dibis district of Kirkuk governorate and between Diyala and Salah al-Din governorates respectively.<sup>48</sup> On 13 July, four policemen died as a result of clashes between ISIL and Iraqi security forces in Diyala governorate.<sup>49</sup>

Several individuals suspected of ISIL affiliation were arrested in Sulaymaniyah governorate. According to authorities, these individuals had judicial warrants against them.<sup>50</sup>

## **2.4 Other security incidents**

Violent attacks targeting businesses linked to US brands were reported in the capital Baghdad. In two separate incidents, a dozen masked men vandalised and burnt down two popular restaurants (KFC and Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken and Chili House). No fatalities were reported. The perpetrators of these attacks were said to be mobs supporting Iran-backed militias in Iraq and acting on grounds that American restaurants and shops finance US support for Israel's war in Gaza.<sup>51</sup>

## **2.5 Conflict data**

According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) dataset,<sup>52</sup> between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024 there were 2 251 security incidents recorded in Iraq: 412 were coded as battles, 1 713 as explosions/remote violence, and 126 as violence against civilians.<sup>53</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup> EPIC, ISHM: JULY 11 – 18, 2024, 18 July 2024, [url](#); New York Times (The), Why the Pentagon Is Warning That ISIS Attacks Could Double This Year, 17 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>46</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> Reuters, Five Iraqi soldiers killed in ISIS attack, sources say, 14 May 2024, [url](#); USDOD, Operation Inherent Resolve and other U.S. Government Activities related to Iraq & Syria, April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, 1 August 2024, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>48</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, [url](#); USDOD, Operation Inherent Resolve and other U.S. Government Activities related to Iraq & Syria, April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, 1 August 2024, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>49</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch – Iraq: July 2024, n.d, [url](#)

<sup>50</sup> Rudaw, Nine suspected ISIS members arrested in Sulaimani, 4 July 2024, [url](#); Ina, CTS captures three terrorists in Sulaymaniyah, 13 July 2024, [url](#); Rudaw, Eleven ISIS suspects arrested in Sulaimani, Halabja, 24 July 2024, [url](#); Rudaw, Iraqi, Kurdish forces arrest 21 ISIS suspects in Sulaimani, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

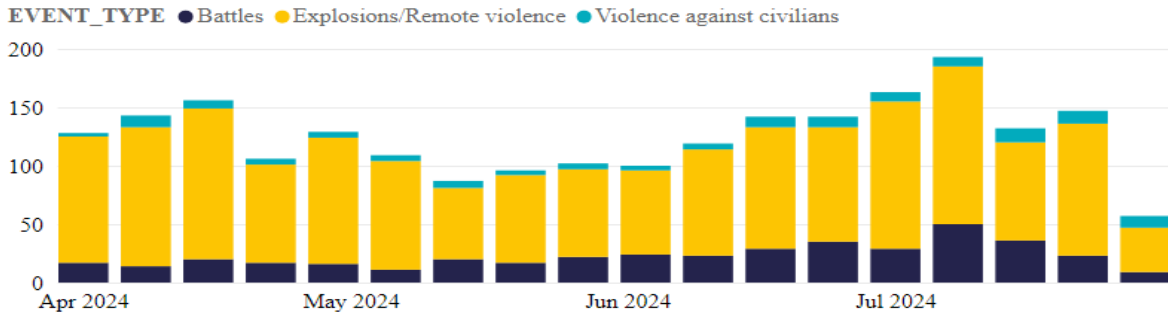
<sup>51</sup> AP, Attacks on businesses linked to US brands rattle Baghdad as anger over the war in Gaza surges, 7 June 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)

<sup>52</sup> EUAA used only the following type of ACLED coded security events in the analysis: battles, explosions/remote violence and violence against civilians. For more information on ACLED data and how it is used by the EUAA, see [EUAA COI Report Iraq – Security Situation 2024](#)

<sup>53</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Middle East, data covering 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024, as of 8 August 2024, [url](#)

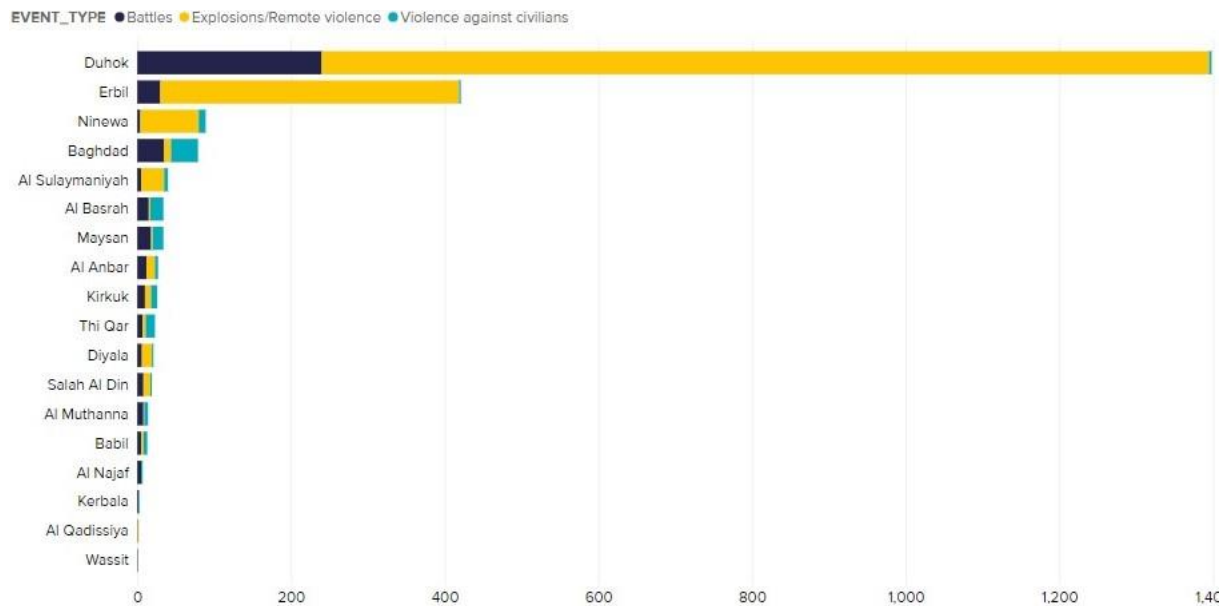


Evolution of events by type



**Figure 1. Evolution of security events coded battles, explosions/remote violence and violence against civilians between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024 based on ACLED data<sup>54</sup>**

Most security incidents were recorded by ACLED in Dohuk (1 398), followed by Erbil (421) and Ninewa (89) governorates. The lowest security incidents figures were recorded in Karbala (3), Qadissiya (2) and Wassit (1) governorates.<sup>55</sup> (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Number of security events coded battles, explosions/remote violence and violence against civilians between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024. Breakdown by governorate based on ACLED data**

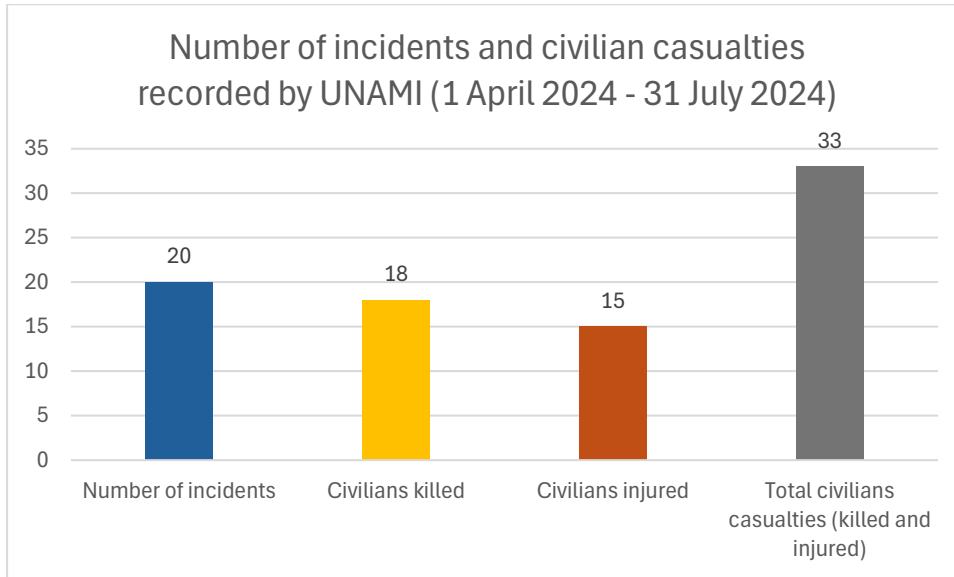
<sup>54</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Middle East, data covering 1 data covering 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024, as of 8 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Middle East, data covering 1 data covering 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024, as of 8 August 2024, [url](#)



Between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024, UNAMI documented at least 33 civilian casualties resulting from armed conflict related incidents in Iraq, 34 % less than the same period in 2023 and of 82% less than the same period in 2022.

UNAMI documented a total of 20 incidents resulting in at least 33 civilian casualties, including 18 dead and 15 wounded (see Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Number of incidents and civilian casualties recorded in Iraq by UNAMI between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024.<sup>56</sup>**

Broken down by gender, age and police, UNAMI data shows that zero women, nine men, one police and eight children were killed (seven boys and one girl) and one woman, nine men, zero police, and five children (four boys and one girl) were injured (See figure 4).

<sup>56</sup> EUAA analysis based on UNAMI data. UNAMI, Email to EUAA, 4 August 2024





Number of incidents	Women casualties		Children casualties <sup>57</sup>		Police casualties <sup>58</sup>		Civilian men casualties		Total civilian casualties (killed + injured)
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	
20	0	1	8 (7M,1F)	5 (4M,1F)	1	0	9	9	33

**Figure 4. Civilian casualties recorded in Iraq by UNAMI between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024. Breakdown by age, gender and police.<sup>59</sup>**

The majority of civilian casualties recorded by UNAMI were caused by explosive remnants of war (ERWs), unexploded ordnances (UXOs), improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms fire (SAF), air attacks, and mortars/rockets (IDF).<sup>60</sup>

According to UNAMI data (see Figure 5), the highest number of civilian casualties recorded during the reference period was in Salah Al-Din governorate (14, including 7 deaths), followed by Basra (4, including 1 death), Anbar (3, including 3 deaths), and Diyala (2, including 1 death), Baghdad (2, including 2 deaths), Muthanna (2, including 1 death), Erbil (1, including 0 death), Babil (1, including 0 death), Dohuk (1, including 1 death), Kirkuk (1, including 0 death), Ninewa (1, including 1 death) and Sulaymaniyah (1, including 1 death). No civilian casualties were recorded in the governorates of Najaf, Thi-Qar, Maysan, Qadisiyyah, Wasit and Karbala.<sup>61</sup> (See Figure 5)

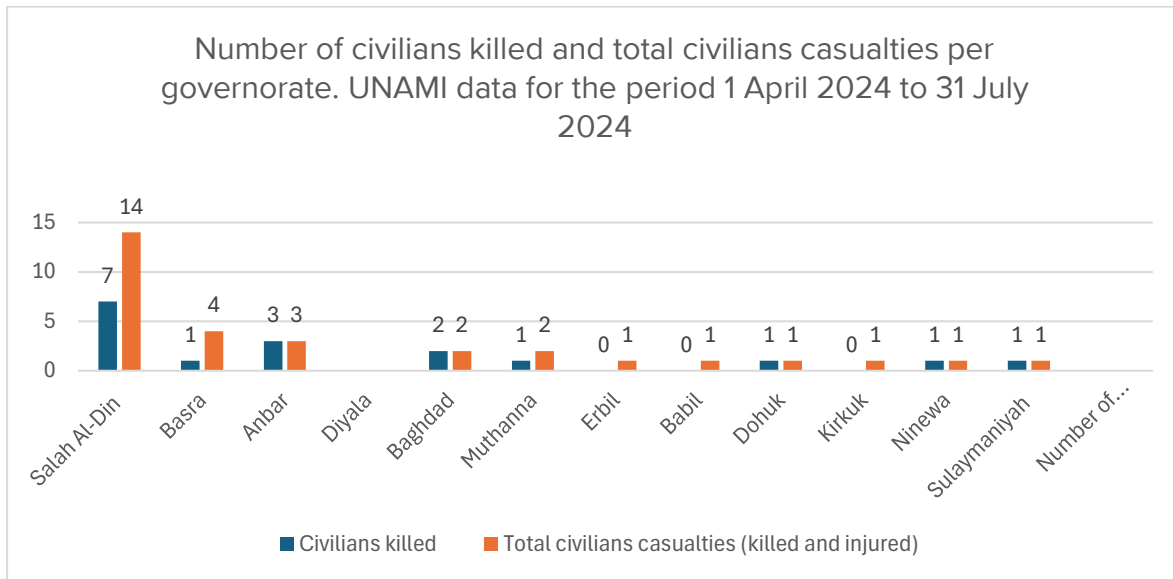
<sup>57</sup> “M” for Male and “F” for Female.

<sup>58</sup> Iraqi police due to their civilian functions related to law enforcement at the time of the incident are considered as civilians (not directly taking part in hostilities – DPiH)

<sup>59</sup> EUAA analysis based on UNAMI data. UNAMI, Email to EUAA, 4 August 2024

<sup>60</sup> EUAA analysis based on UNAMI data. UNAMI, Email to EUAA, 4 August 2024

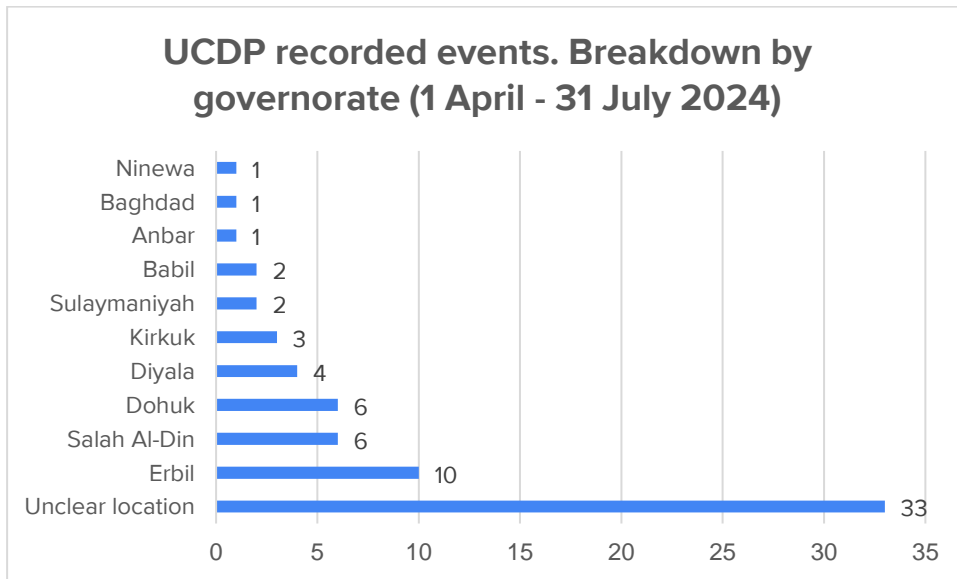
<sup>61</sup> EUAA analysis based on UNAMI data. UNAMI, Email to EUAA, 4 August 2024



**Figure 5. Number of civilians killed and total civilians casualties per governorate. UNAMI data for the period between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2024.**

For the period between 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024, UCDP recorded 69 security events leading to 85 fatalities in Iraq. The largest number of events were recorded in Erbil governorate (10) followed by Dohuk (6) and Salah Al-Din (6) governorates. For 33 of the events recorded by UCDP the exact location within a governorate was not specified. Most of these events (30 out of 33) were reported in the Northern Kurdistan area of Iraq. During the indicated reference period, UCDP did not record any events leading to fatalities in the governorates of Thi-Qar, Basra, Missan, Muthanna, Najaf, Wassit, Qadissiya and Karbala.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>62</sup> EUAA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering 1 April to 31 July 2024 provided by courtesy of UCDP by email, 20 August 2024



For the period between 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024, the UCDP recorded 85 fatalities out of which 8 were civilian deaths. Civilian deaths were recorded only in the governorates of Salah Al-Din (2 civilian deaths), Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah (1 civilian death each). There were also 4 civilian deaths recorded by UCDP in the KRI without being able to attribute a precise location in one of the governorates. UCDP did not record any civilian deaths in any of the other governorates.<sup>63</sup>

### 3. Human rights situation

#### 3.1 Executions of prisoners and arbitrary arrests/killings of civilians

During the reference period, various sources reported on an increasing frequency of arbitrary executions of prisoners convicted of terrorism-related offences.<sup>64</sup> As of June, UN experts documented 30 executions stating that “[t]he alleged political use of death sentences, mainly against Sunni Iraqi males, is deeply troubling.”<sup>65</sup> In April 2024, at least 13 people were reported to have been executed within one week in Nasiriyah Central Prison.<sup>66</sup> Among those, 11 individuals were convicted on grounds of their affiliation to ISIL.<sup>67</sup> Amnesty International (AI) stated that many more people, however, might have been executed in secret in Iraq prisons in recent months. Referring to official figures, sources reported that more than 8 000 prisoners

<sup>63</sup> EUSA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering 1 April to 31 July 2024 provided by courtesy of UCDP by email, 20 August 2024

<sup>64</sup> UN OHCHR, Scale and cycle of Iraq’s arbitrary executions may be a crime against humanity: Special Rapporteurs, 27 June 2024, [url](#); AI, Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Basnews, Secret Executions Surge in Iraqi Prisons: Observatory Report, 12 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>65</sup> UN OHCHR, Scale and cycle of Iraq’s arbitrary executions may be a crime against humanity: Special Rapporteurs, 27 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>66</sup> AI, Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>67</sup> AI, Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Reuters, Iraq hangs 11 convicted of terrorism in latest mass executions, 25 April 2024, [url](#)



were believed to be on death row in Iraq.<sup>68</sup> On 22 October 2023, the Federal Appeals Court sought the ratification of the death sentences of 51 people from the Iraqi president. On 6 January 2024, ‘an unspecified number of prisoners were executed.’ Speaking to the same source, two lawyers informed that as many as 150 people were ‘at imminent risk of execution after President Abdul Latif Rashid reportedly ratified their death sentences.’ AI further noted that, while failing to investigate allegations of torture, Iraqi courts have routinely accepted confessions extracted by torture as evidence for sentencing people to death.<sup>69</sup> Citing a report by a local human rights observatory,<sup>70</sup> media outlets reported that ‘dozens of death sentences’ had been carried out ‘over the past few weeks’ without being publicly announced, and that 63 cases of executions at Al-Hout prison in Nasiriyah were documented by the local observatory. Most of the executions targeted individuals convicted of terrorism-related charges.<sup>71</sup> The highest number of executions reportedly took place in Salah al-Din Governorate, with over 32 individuals sentenced to death.<sup>72</sup>

In July, the first wife of the late ISIL leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was sentenced to death by a court in Iraq for working with the group and for detaining Yazidi women in her home. By the time of drafting, she was being held in Iraqi custody.<sup>73</sup> According to an interior ministry official, the woman has been identified as Asma Mohammed, also known as Umm Hudaifa.<sup>74</sup>

Local sources reported that some human rights organisations and political actors expressed concerns over the involvement of members of Sulaymaniyah security forces in cases of arbitrary arrests and killing of civilians.<sup>75</sup> As cited by a local news outlet, the Independent Commission for Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region also raised the alarm over ‘allegations against members of the security forces, accusing them of serious crimes including murder and rape.’<sup>76</sup>

### ***3.2 Freedom of expression and freedom of the press***

In April, Iraqi social media influencer Om Fahad was shot dead in Baghdad by ‘unknown assailants’. Fahad, whose real name was Ghufran Sawadi, became famous on TikTok for sharing videos of herself dancing to pop music. In 2023, she was sentenced to six months in prison for undermining ‘modesty and public morality’.<sup>77</sup>

---

<sup>68</sup> AI, Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Scale and cycle of Iraq’s arbitrary executions may be a crime against humanity: Special Rapporteurs, 27 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>69</sup> AI, Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>70</sup> Afada Iraq, Twitter, 10 June 2024, [url](#); Afada, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>71</sup> New Arab (The), Major increase in secret executions in Iraqi prison exposed by local human rights observatory, 12 June 2024, [url](#); Basnews, Secret Executions Surge in Iraqi Prisons: Observatory Report, 12 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>72</sup> New Arab (The), Major increase in secret executions in Iraqi prison exposed by local human rights observatory, 12 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>73</sup> Reuters, Iraq issues death sentence against wife of late Islamic State leader, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>74</sup> BBC, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s widow sentenced to death in Iraq, 10 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>75</sup> Shafaq, Concerns over security forces’ involvement in civilian deaths prevail in al-Sulaymaniyah, 29 July 2024, [url](#); Basnews, People’s Front Leader Blames PUK President for Sulaymaniyah Unrest, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>76</sup> Kurdistan 24, Security forces in Sulaimani accused of serious crimes: Independent Commission for Human Rights report, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>77</sup> BBC, Iraqi TikTok star Om Fahad shot dead in Baghdad, 27 April 2024, [url](#)



In the city of Zakho, in the KRI, 15 people were arrested over the course of two months for ‘misuse of technology, social media and means of communication’. Allegations were related to threatening to publish private videos and pictures, insulting and disrespecting people and social and religious values.<sup>78</sup> In July, a 25-year-old man was detained by security forces in the city of Halabja in the KRI for allegedly posting a comment on social media criticizing the district mayor’s office.<sup>79</sup>

On March 2024, the Iraqi Communication Minister announced to have submitted a request to the Iraqi Council of Ministers to ban the social media platform TikTok.<sup>80</sup> By the time of finalising this COI Query response, TikTok was still active in Iraq.<sup>81</sup>

In May, Amnesty International denounced the continued attacks against journalists by KRI authorities, including ‘arbitrary detention, beating and grossly unfair trials.’<sup>82</sup> During the same month, Shakar Star, a journalist and presenter at local media agency Tiwar News was arrested by Asayish security forces. Star was accused of presenting ‘false and misleading news reports’. According to the head Tiwar News agency, Star’s arrest was linked to his reporting disclosing a smuggling network of gold, money, weapons, drugs, as well as human trafficking, with involvement of Sulaymaniyah security forces.<sup>83</sup> In July, Hejîn Fetah, a journalist at Zoom News and some of her colleagues were reportedly detained by security forces of the KRG while they were reporting on Turkish military operations in the Amedi district.<sup>84</sup>

### **3.3 Anti-LGBTIQ law**

On 27 April 2024, Iraq’s parliament passed an amendment to the existing Law on Combatting Prostitution No. 8 of 1988, *de facto* criminalising same sex-relations and transgender identities.<sup>85</sup> The new law foresees punishments for same-sex relations with a penalty ranging between 10 and 15 years in prison as well as a prison term between 1 and 3 years for people who undergo gender-affirming medical interventions and for “imitating women.” The law also foresees 7 years in prison and a fine between 10 million Iraqi dinars (EUR 7 052) and 15 million dinars (EUR 10 570) for “promoting homosexuality”. In its original draft, the bill amendment proposed the death penalty or life in prison for same-sex relations;<sup>86</sup> this was eventually amended in response to opposition from Western countries.<sup>87</sup> The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) further noted that this law also represents a

---

<sup>78</sup> Rudaw, Fifteen arrested in Zakho over misuse of technology, social media, 15 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>79</sup> Rudaw, Man allegedly detained for social media comment in Halabja, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>80</sup> SMEX, Iraq Threatens to Ban TikTok, 15 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>81</sup> SMEX, Iraq Threatens to Ban TikTok, 15 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>82</sup> AI, Iraq: Authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq must immediately end their assault on press freedom, 2 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>83</sup> CPJ, Iraqi Kurdish Asayish security forces arrest journalist Shakar Star after smuggling report, 21 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>84</sup> Women Press Freedom, Iraq/Kurdistan: Duhok Security Forces Detain Hejîn Fetah and Colleagues, 14 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>85</sup> IPS/CIVICUS, Iraq: ‘Tolerance for Abuses Against LGBTQI+ People Has Now Been Made Explicit Through Legislation’, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>86</sup> HRW, Iraq: Repeal Anti-LGBT Law, 20 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>87</sup> BBC, Iraq criminalises same-sex relationships in new law, 28 April 2024, [url](#)



threat for individuals advocating for LGBTIQ rights, effectively curbing freedom of speech and expression.<sup>88</sup> The new anti-LGBTIQ bill did not automatically come into force in the KRI since, like most laws passed by the Iraqi parliament, the bill needs to be first approved by the Kurdistan parliament. The KRG regional parliament was dissolved in May 2023,<sup>89</sup> and is currently pending elections scheduled for 20 October 2024.<sup>90</sup> LGBTIQ individuals in the KRI are reported to face discrimination like in the rest of the country.<sup>91</sup>

### **3.4 Violence against women**

In a report published in July, AI stated that, despite the positive legislative framework in the KRI, gender-based violence has continued to be widespread, ‘perpetuated by a criminal justice system that fuels impunity and a protection framework that is exhausted and underfunded’. As a result, AI report found that the authorities in the KRI have failed to protect women survivors of domestic violence, including beatings, burning, rape and murder. In addition, KRI authorities have imposed arbitrary restrictions on the freedoms of women who have sought protection in state-run shelters.<sup>92</sup> In July, Iraqi Parliament postponed the first reading on an amendment to the 1959 Iraq’s Personal Status Law due to opposition. The amendment, if passed, would allow Sunni and Shia clerics to sign marriage contracts outside the court system. The opposition claimed that, despite not explicitly lowering the age of consent, the amendment could allow child marriage also for children as young as 9 years old, as some Shia scholars allow such practices.<sup>93</sup>

### **3.5 Ethnic and religious minorities**

In June 2024, an Iraqi court ordered a Christian woman to convert to Islam, along with her children, since her mother had converted to Islam when the woman was 15. The Christian woman, who resides in Dohuk, is married to a Christian man. The court based its decision on the 1959 Iraq’s Personal Status Law stipulating that if a parent converts to Islam, their children who are under 18 should also adopt the new faith.<sup>94</sup> Ethnic and religious minorities in the KRI are reported to have been increasingly exposed to discrimination, being caught in the middle of a power struggle between the Iraqi Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government.<sup>95</sup> Following a ruling by the Iraqi federal court in February 2024, eleven seats reserved for ethnic and religious minorities in the KRG parliament were deemed as

---

<sup>88</sup> ILGA Asia, Iraq: Authorities must urgently repeal legislation criminalising LGBTIQ persons, 9 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>89</sup> Rudaw, Iraq’s anti-LGBT+ law not applicable to Kurdistan Region: Advisor, 7 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>90</sup> Rudaw, Kurdistan Region to hold parliamentary elections October 20, 26 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>91</sup> Rudaw, ‘Everyone feels unsafe:’ Iraq’s LGBT+ community horrified by law passage, 30 April 2024, [url](#); HRW, Iraq: Repeal Anti-LGBT Law, 20 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>92</sup> AI, Daunting and Dire: Impunity, Underfunded Institutions Undermine Protection of Women and Girls From Domestic Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>93</sup> AI Monitor, Iraqis protest proposed ‘anti-women’ amendment to personal status law, 4 August 2024, [url](#)  
Rudaw, Iraqi top bloc calls for moving forward with controversial bill, 30 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>94</sup> Rudaw, Iraqi court tells Christian woman to convert to Islam, 1 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>95</sup> Foreign Policy, Iraqi Kurdistan’s Ethnic Minorities Are Under Attack, 1 May 2024, [url](#)



unconstitutional.<sup>96</sup> In May 2024, the federal court issued a new ruling restoring five seats reserved for minorities.<sup>97</sup>

### **3.6 Child labour**

A report published in June by the Iraqi Observatory for Human Rights (IOHR) revealed that child labour in Iraq is worsening due to difficult economic conditions and ongoing conflicts, among other reasons.<sup>98</sup>

### **3.7 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

At the end of July, authorities announced to have postponed the closure of the IDPs camps in the KRI, which had been set for 30 July 2024.<sup>99</sup> The federal government offered four million dinars (EUR 2 820) to IDP families who would return to their homes by July 30. Some 26 000 IDP families are reported to remain in the Kurdistan Region's camps, most of whom originate from Sinjar and reside in camps in Duhok governorate, followed by Erbil.<sup>100</sup> Many IDPs have reportedly been reluctant to leave, despite the financial incentive, due to continuing violence in their hometowns, damaged infrastructures and lack of basic services. On 11 July, the last remaining IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah governorate was shut down.<sup>101</sup>

## **4. Socio-economic situation**

In June, Türkiye extended its flight ban on Sulaymaniyah International Airport until 7 December 2024. The ban on flights in and out of Sulaymaniyah was originally imposed on 3 April 2023 for three months and extended three times since then.<sup>102</sup>

During Türkiye's military incursion in the KRI in July, clashes between Turkish forces and PKK fighters have ignited numerous wildfires. In Sargale village, in Duhok governorate, about 55 % of agricultural land is reported to have been burned due to Turkish airstrikes.<sup>103</sup>

Following a ruling by the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq in February 2024 ordering – among other things – the payment of public sector salaries in the KRI to be disbursed directly by the federal government,<sup>104</sup> funds were released to pay salaries of civil servants and social security

---

<sup>96</sup> Amwaj.media, Iraqi federal court rulings undermine Kurdish autonomy, critics say, Iraqi federal court rulings undermine Kurdish autonomy, critics say, 27 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>97</sup> Reuters, Iraq's Kurdistan region to hold delayed parliamentary election on Oct. 20, 26 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>98</sup> IOHR, Children with laborious duties; the statements of children working in rigid professions, 12 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>99</sup> AP News, The closure of camps in Iraq housing Yazidis displaced by IS attacks is postponed, an official says, 31 July 2024, [url](#); Basnews, Kurdistan Refugee Camps to Remain Open: Official, 28 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>100</sup> Rudaw, About 26 thousand IDP families remain in Kurdistan Region camps: Ministry, 4 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>101</sup> Rudaw, Iraqi ministry shuts down last IDP camp in Sulaimani, 11 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>102</sup> Rudaw, Turkey extends Sulaimani flight ban until December, 8 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>103</sup> CTP, An overview of the recent Turkish military actions in Iraqi Kurdistan, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>104</sup> S&P Global, Iraqi federal court ruling deals another blow to Kurdistan regional government's oil autonomy, 22 February 2024, [url](#)



beneficiaries in the KRI for the months of March,<sup>105</sup> April,<sup>106</sup> May,<sup>107</sup> June.<sup>108</sup> A salary list has been submitted by the KRG to the Iraqi Ministry of Finance for the month of July for audit.<sup>109</sup>

After a 3-year pause, in July, Türkiye resumed electricity exports to Iraq. The electricity supply is part of Turkish investment plans in Iraq, aimed at the reconstruction of some key damaged infrastructures, including roads and railways.<sup>110</sup>

In July, protests took place in the southern governorate of Diwaniya against power cuts and water shortages.<sup>111</sup>

---

<sup>105</sup> International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, April trends and May alerts, [url](#);

International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, June trends and July alerts, [url](#)

<sup>106</sup> Shafaq, Baghdad finally releases April salaries for Kurdistan Region's public servants, 14 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>107</sup> Rudaw, Iraq sends May salaries for Kurdistan Region public sector, 6 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>108</sup> Shafaq, Kurdistan Region receives nearly 500 billion dinars for civil servant salaries, 9 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>109</sup> Kurdistan24, Kurdistan Region submits July salary list to Iraqi Ministry of Finance, 21 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>110</sup> AA, Türkiye resumes electricity export to Iraq following 3-year pause, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>111</sup> New Region/AFP, Iraqis protest over summer blackouts and water shortages, 15 July 2024, [url](#)





## BIBLIOGRAPHY

AA (Anadolu Ajansı), Iraqi media hails Turkish president's visit to Baghdad, Erbil as historic, 23 April 2024, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraqi-media-hails-turkish-presidents-visit-to-baghdad-erbil-as-historic-/3200018#:~:text=On%20Monday%20evening%2C%20Erdogan%20concluded,enhance%20ties%20in%20several%20fields>, accessed 10 July 2024

AA (Anadolu Ajansı), Turkish security forces destroy 37 PKK targets in northern Iraq, 4 July 2024, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-security-forces-destroy-37-pkk-targets-in-northern-iraq/3265542>,

Afada Iraq, Twitter, 10 June 2024, [https://twitter.com/Afada\\_iraq/status/1800126723595681820](https://twitter.com/Afada_iraq/status/1800126723595681820), accessed 10 July 2024

Afada, <https://afada.net/en/>, n.d., accessed 10 July 2024

AI (Amnesty International), Daunting and Dire: Impunity, Underfunded Institutions Undermine Protection of Women and Girls From Domestic Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 3 July 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde14/8162/2024/en/>, accessed 20 July 2024

AI (Amnesty International), Iraq: at least 13 executed in one day, 24 April 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/iraq-least-13-executed-one-day>, accessed 10 July 2024

AI (Amnesty International), Iraq: Authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq must immediately end their assault on press freedom, 2 May 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/iraq-authorities-in-the-kurdistan-region-of-iraq-must-immediately-end-their-assault-on-press-freedom/>, accessed 20 July 2024

Al Jazeera, US says ISIL trying 'to reconstitute' amid uptick in Syria, Iraq attacks, 17 July 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/17/us-says-isil-trying-to-to-reconstitute-amid-uptick-in-syria-iraq-attacks>, accessed 20 July 2024

Al Monitor, 22 July 2024, US resumes talks with Iraq over future of troop presence, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/07/us-resumes-talks-iraq-over-future-troop-presence>, accessed 30 July 2024



Al Monitor, Baghdad silent as Turkey moves deeper against PKK militants in northern Iraq, 8 July 2024, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/07/baghdad-silent-turkey-moves-deeper-against-pkk-militants-northern-iraq#ixzz8g270XI4t>, accessed 30 July 2024

Al Monitor, Iraqis protest proposed 'anti-women' amendment to personal status law, 4 August 2024, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/07/iraqis-protest-proposed-anti-women-amendment-personal-status-law>, accessed 7 August 2024

Al Monitor, New attacks near US bases in Iraq, Syria threaten uneasy detente, 22 April 2024, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/04/new-attacks-near-us-bases-iraq-syria-threaten-uneasy-detente#ixzz8f01tpEda>, accessed 10 July 2024

Al Monitor, ISIS resurgence in Iraq sees fresh attacks, clashes after commander killed, 14 May 2024, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/05/isis-resurgence-iraq-sees-fresh-attacks-clashes-after-commander-killed#ixzz8qiFEwnkr>, accessed 10 July 2024

Amwaj.media, Iraqi federal court rulings undermine Kurdish autonomy, critics say, Iraqi federal court rulings undermine Kurdish autonomy, critics say, 27 February 2024, <https://amwaj.media/media-monitor/iraqi-federal-court-rulings-undermine-kurdish-autonomy-critics-say>, accessed 10 July 2024

AP (Associated Press News), Attacks on businesses linked to US brands rattle Baghdad as anger over the war in Gaza surges, 7 June 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/iraq-us-gaza-israel-riots-protests-b4c8c64c4bfddb04b5e5ce43bd40e46b>, accessed 15 July 2024

AP (Associated Press News), Biden hosts Iraqi leader after Iran's attack on Israel throws Mideast into greater uncertainty, 15 April 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/us-iraq-iran-middle-east-tensions-ee56b6caa34a0c5054ed015ce6a410dd>, accessed 15 July 2024

AP (Associated Press News), Kurdish separatists and water issues loom large in long-awaited visit of Turkey's Erdogan to Iraq, 22 April 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/iraq-turkey-erdogan-pkk-water-oil-gas-29fa460c436e2e0fcbfe72a414c4340f>, accessed 20 July 2024

AP (Associated Press News), The closure of camps in Iraq housing Yazidis displaced by IS attacks is postponed, an official says, 31 July 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/iraq-yazidis-camps-closure-deadline-1856d30687ccf35e5019064fdb3bc299>, accessed 6 August 2024



Basnews, Kurdistan Refugee Camps to Remain Open: Official, 28 July 2024, <https://www.basnews.com/en/babat/855676>, accessed 2 August 2024

Basnews, People's Front Leader Blames PUK President for Sulaymaniyah Unrest, 28 July 2024, <https://www.basnews.com/en/babat/855681>, accessed 2 August 2024

Basnews, Secret Executions Surge in Iraqi Prisons: Observatory Report, 12 June 2024, <https://www.basnews.com/en/babat/851317>, accessed 10 July 2024

Basnews, Turkish Airstrike Kills PKK Senior Member in Sulaymaniyah, 24 July 2024, <https://www.basnews.com/en/babat/855259>, accessed 3 August 2024

BBC, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's widow sentenced to death in Iraq, 10 July 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c51y78nl13jo>, accessed 15 July 2024

BBC, Iraq criminalises same-sex relationships in new law, 28 April 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68914551>, accessed 10 July 2024

BBC, Iraqi TikTok star Om Fahad shot dead in Baghdad, 27 April 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68910812>, accessed 10 July 2024

CFRI (Centre français de recherche sur l'Irak), Iraqi Government Challenges UNAMI's Presence: What Are the Implications?, 21 June 2024, <https://cfri-irak.com/en/article/iraqi-government-challenges-unamis-presence-what-are-the-implications-2024-06-21>, accessed 10 July 2024

CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists), Iraqi Kurdish Asayish security forces arrest journalist Shakar Star after smuggling report, 21 May 2024, <https://cpj.org/2024/05/iraqi-kurdish-asayish-security-forces-arrest-journalist-shakar-star-after-smuggling-reports/>, accessed 10 July 2024

CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists), Strike injures 2 Iraqi Kurdish reporters in Sinjar, 10 July 2024, <https://cpj.org/2024/07/strike-injures-2-iraqi-kurdish-reporters-in-sinjar/>, accessed 16 July 2024

CTP (Committee to Protect Journalists), An overview of the recent Turkish military actions in Iraqi Kurdistan, 8 July 2024, <https://cpt.org/2024/07/08/an-overview-of-the-recent-turkish-military-actions-in-iraqi-kurdistan>, accessed 16 July 2024

CTP (Committee to Protect Journalists), What are Turkish Armed Forces aiming for in Iraqi Kurdistan?, 27 June 2024, <https://cpt.org/2024/06/27/what-are-turkish-armed-forces-aiming-for-in-iraqi-kurdistan>, accessed 16 July 2024



Duvar English, Turkish President Erdoğan plans mass military operation in Iraq, Syria against PKK, 11 March 2024, [https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-president-erdogan-plans-mass-military-operation-in-iraq-syria-against-pkk-news-63995#google\\_vignette](https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-president-erdogan-plans-mass-military-operation-in-iraq-syria-against-pkk-news-63995#google_vignette), accessed 16 July 2024

EPIC, (Enabling Peace in Iraq Center), ISHM (Iraq Security and Humanitarian Monitor): JULY 11 – 18, 2024, 18 July 2024, <https://enablingpeace.org/ishm455/#Headline2>, accessed 20 July 2024

Foreign Policy, Iraqi Kurdistan's Ethnic Minorities Are Under Attack, 1 May 2024, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/05/01/iraqi-kurdistan-ethnic-minorities-rights-baghdad-federal-shiite-government/>, accessed 10 July 2024

France24/AFP (Agence France-Presse), Erdogan says end near for military operation in north Iraq, Syria, 13 July 2024, <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240713-erdogan-says-end-near-for-military-operation-in-north-iraq-syria>, accessed 16 July 2024

HRW (Human Rights Watch), Iraq: Repeal Anti-LGBT Law, 20 May 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/20/iraq-repeal-anti-lgbt-law>, accessed 10 July 2024

ILGA Asia (International Lesbian and Gay Association), Iraq: Authorities must urgently repeal legislation criminalising LGBTIQ persons, 9 May 2024, <https://www.ilgaasia.org/news/IRAQStatement2024>, accessed 10 July 2024

INA (Iraqi News Agency), CTS captures three terrorists in Sulaymaniyah, 13 July 2024, <https://ina.iq/eng/33612-cts-captures-three-terrorists-in-sulaymaniyah.html>, accessed 16 July 2024

International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, May trends and June alerts, n.d., <https://www.crisisgroup.org/sites/default/files/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-may-2024-mena.pdf>, accessed 10 July 2024

International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch 2024, Middle East and North Africa, July 2024, n.d., <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/july-trends-and-august-alerts-2024#iraq>, accessed 6 August 2024

IOHR (Iraqi Observatory for Human Rights), Children with laborious duties; the statements of children working in rigid professions, 12 June 2024, <https://iohriq.org/151-.html>, accessed 10 July 2024



IPS/CIVICUS (Inter Press Service), Iraq: 'Tolerance for Abuses Against LGBTQI+ People Has Now Been Made Explicit Through Legislation', 1 July 2024, <https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/07/iraq-tolerance-abuses-lgbtqi-people-now-made-explicit-legislation/>, accessed 10 July 2024

ISW (Institute for the Study of War) and CTP (Critical Threats Project), Iran Update, ISW and CTP, Iran Update, Iran Update, July 15, 2024, 15 July 2024, <https://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Iran%20Update%2C%20July%2015%2C%202024%20PDF.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2024

ISPI (Italian Institute for International Political Studies), Deferred democracy: the impact of election delays in Iraqi Kurdistan, 6 June 2024, <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/deferred-democracy-the-impact-of-election-delays-in-iraqi-kurdistan-176252#:~:text=The%20ongoing%20political%20divisions%20in,of%20an%20unreformable%20political%20system>, accessed 10 June 2024

ISPI (Italian Institute for International Political Studies), Israel-Iran Escalation: Reactions from the Region and Beyond, 17 April 2024, <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/israel-iran-escalation-reactions-from-the-region-and-beyond-170441#:~:text=On%20the%20night%20between%20Saturday,that%20began%20on%20October%207>, accessed 10 June 2024

Kurdistan24, Kurdistan Region submits July salary list to Iraqi Ministry of Finance, 21 July 2024, <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/35910-Kurdistan-Region-submits-July-salary-list-to-Iraqi-Ministry-of-Finance>, accessed 30 July 2024

Kurdistan 24, Security forces in Sulaimani accused of serious crimes: Independent Commission for Human Rights report, 18 July 2024, <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/36037-Security-forces-in-Sulaimani-accused-of-serious-crimes-Independent-Commission-for-Human-Rights-report>, accessed 20 July 2024

New Arab (The), Turkey stages artillery strikes on Kurdish fighters in Iraq, <https://www.newarab.com/news/turkey-stages-artillery-strikes-kurdish-fighters-iraq>, 27 July 2024, accessed 3 August 2024

New Arab (The), Major increase in secret executions in Iraqi prison exposed by local human rights observatory, 12 June 2024, <https://www.newarab.com/news/human-rights-group-exposes-surge-secret-executions-iraq>, accessed 10 July 2024



New York Times (The), Why the Pentagon Is Warning That ISIS Attacks Could Double This Year, 17 July 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/17/world/middleeast/isis-attacks-iraq-syria.html>, accessed 20 July 2024

Reuters, Five Iraqi soldiers killed in ISIS attack, sources say, 14 May 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/five-iraqi-soldiers-killed-isis-attack-army-post-eastern-iraq-two-security-2024-05-13/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Reuters, Iraq hangs 11 convicted of terrorism in latest mass executions, 25 April 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iraq-hangs-11-convicted-terrorism-latest-mass-executions-security-officials-say-2024-04-25/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Reuters, Iraq issues death sentence against wife of late Islamic State leader, 10 July 2024, [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iraq-issues-death-sentence-against-wife-late-islamic-state-leader-2024-07-10/#:~:text=DUBAI%2C%20July%2010%20\(Reuters\),Wednesday%20without%20naming%20the%20woman](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iraq-issues-death-sentence-against-wife-late-islamic-state-leader-2024-07-10/#:~:text=DUBAI%2C%20July%2010%20(Reuters),Wednesday%20without%20naming%20the%20woman), accessed 15 July 2024

Reuters, Iraq's Kurdistan region to hold delayed parliamentary election on Oct. 20, 26 June 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iraqs-kurdistan-region-hold-delayed-parliamentary-election-oct-20-2024-06-26/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Reuters, Turkey strikes northern Iraq from air, says it kills PKK members, 6 May 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-strikes-northern-iraq-air-says-it-kills-pkk-members-2024-05-06/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Reuters, US carries out strike in Iraq as regional tensions worsen, 31 July 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/explosions-iraqs-pmf-security-agency-base-south-baghdad-kill-one-member-sources-2024-07-30/>, accessed 3 August 2024

Rudaw, About 26 thousand IDP families remain in Kurdistan Region camps: Ministry, 4 July 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/04072024>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Eleven ISIS suspects arrested in Sulaimani, Halabja, 24 July 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/240720242>, accessed 2 August 2024

Rudaw, 'Everyone feels unsafe:' Iraq's LGBT+ community horrified by law passage, 30 April 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/30042024>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Fifteen arrested in Zakho over misuse of technology, social media, 15 May 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/15052024>, accessed 10 July 2024



Rudaw, Iraq condemns US retaliatory strike on pro-Iran forces in Babil, 31 July 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/310720241>, accessed 3 August 2024

Rudaw, Iraq's anti-LGBT+ law not applicable to Kurdistan Region: Advisor, 7 May 2024, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/07052024>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Iraqi court tells Christian woman to convert to Islam, 1 June 2024  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/01062024>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Iraqi ministry shuts down last IDP camp in Sulaimani, 11 July 2024,  
<https://manage.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/110720241#:~:text=%E2%80%9CToday%2C%20we%20announce%20from%20Sulaimani,camp%20%2D%20the%20last%20in%20Sulaimani>, accessed 15 July 2024

Rudaw, Iraqi top bloc calls for moving forward with controversial bill, 30 July 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/30072024>, accessed 7 August 2023

Rudaw, Iraqi, Kurdish forces arrest 21 ISIS suspects in Sulaimani, 22 July 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/22072024>, accessed 3 August 2024

Rudaw, Kurdistan Region to hold parliamentary elections October 20, 26 June 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/260620241>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Man allegedly detained for social media comment in Halabja, 1 July 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/300620243>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Nine suspected ISIS members arrested in Sulaimani, 4 July 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/04072024>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, Turkey extends Sulaimani flight ban until December, 8 June 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/080620242>, accessed 10 July 2024

Rudaw, US says it conducted 'defensive strike' in Iraq's Babil, 31 July 2024,  
<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/31072024>, accessed 5 August 2024

Shafaq, Turkish airstrike hits PKK positions in Duhok Governorate, 30 July 2024  
<https://www.shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/Turkish-airstrike-hits-PKK-positions-in-Duhok-Governorate>, accessed 4 August 2024

Shafaq, Turkish forces Withdraw from two Duhok villages, residents displaced, 27 July 2024,  
<https://www.shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/Turkish-forces-Withdraw-from-two-Duhok-villages-residents-displaced>, accessed 4 August 2024





Shafaq, Turkiye conducts airstrikes on PKK targets in northern Iraq, destroys 25 sites, 27 July 2024, <https://www.shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/Turkiye-conducts-airstrikes-on-PKK-targets-in-northern-iraq-destroys-25-sites>, accessed 4 August 2024

Shafaq, Concerns over security forces' involvement in civilian deaths prevail in al-Sulaymaniyah, 29 July 2024, <https://shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/Concerns-over-security-forces-involvement-in-civilian-deaths-prevail-in-al-Sulaymaniyah>, accessed 4 August 2024

Shafaq, ISIS resurgence linked to security vacuums in Kirkuk, says official, 14 July 2024, <https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/ISIS-resurgence-linked-to-security-vacuums-in-Kirkuk-says-official>, accessed 16 July 2024

Shafaq, Turkish airstrikes target PKK sites in Duhok, northern Iraq, 13 June 2024, <https://shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/Turkish-airstrikes-target-PKK-sites-in-Duhok-northern-Iraq-4>, accessed 10 July 2024

SMEX, Iraq Threatens to Ban TikTok, 15 May 2024, <https://smex.org/iraq-authorities-threaten-to-ban-tiktok/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Türkiye Today/Anadolu Agency, Türkiye executes precision operation in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah, 24 July 2024, <https://www.turkiyetoday.com/turkiye/turkiye-executes-precision-operation-in-sulaymaniyah-32452/>, accessed 3 August 2024

UN News, Resolution 2732 (2024) Adopted by the Security Council at its 9642nd meeting, 5 June 2024, <https://iraq.un.org/en/270649-resolution-2732-2024-adopted-security-council-its-9642nd-meeting>, accessed 10 July 2024

UN OHCHR (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Iraq: Scale and cycle of Iraq's arbitrary executions may be a crime against humanity: Special Rapporteurs, 27 June 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/scale-and-cycle-iraqs-arbitrary-executions-may-be-crime-against-humanity>, accessed 10 July 2024

US: White House, Remarks by President Biden and Prime Minister Mohammed Shyaa al-Sudani of the Republic of Iraq Before Bilateral Meeting, 15 April 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2024/04/15/remarks-by-president-biden-and-prime-minister-mohammed-shyaa-al-sudani-of-the-republic-of-iraq-before-bilateral-meeting/>, accessed 10 July 2024

Women Press Freedom, Iraq/Kurdistan: Duhok Security Forces Detain Hejîn Fetah and Colleagues, 14 July 2024, <https://www.womeninjournalism.org/threats->





[all/iraq/kurdistan-duhok-security-forces-detain-hejn-fetah-and-colleagues](#), accessed 5 August 2024