

## **Prevention of Violence and Protection of the Iraqi Religious Minorities, Agenda Item No:3**

Thanks chair for giving me the floor.

I am Dr. Hunain Al-Qaddo from Iraq' the chairman of Iraqi Minorities Council(IMC). I speak on

Behalf of it. The article 1 and 2 of Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National

or Ethnic, Religious and Linguist Minorities indicate clearly that states shall protect religious

and other minorities within their respective territories. Iraqi religious and ethnic minorities,

however, have become subject to intimidation, harassment ,killing and displacement as

a result of violence committed against them on one hand and failure of the Iraqi security forces to provide protection on the other hand . The security of minority groups such as Christian , Yezidis, Sabis, Shabak and Trukmen remains a concern . It is regrettable that the security situation has greatly deteriorated in the past months. Bombings and assassinations have become a part of the daily life of Iraqis generally and of minorities particularly. Since the start of Augusi of 2013 over 50 shabak and more than a hundred Shia Trukmen have been killed by car bombs . In Baashiqah sub-district two car bombs

targeted two Shabak villages' (Ortakhrab and Mwafaqiya) resulting in killing and wounding

hundreds of innocent civilian people, while violence in Tozkhormato district in disputed areas

claimed the life of hundreds .

As a result of violence during past years the Christian population in Iraq has nearly been

hailed to only 300 thousand ,while the number of Sabis dwindled from 40 thousand to around 15 thousand individuals . Unfortunately , tens of thousands of Christian, Yezidis, Shabak and Trukmen have been displaced and become refugees in their homeland Iraq

Security forces have attempted to provide security for the Iraqi religious groups, but its efforts

have been hampered by the rise of militant and extremist forces, lack of political support

and regional intervention in internal Iraqi affairs. Accordingly , and in, line with the Draft

Recommendations: items 49, 50, 51 and 52 we call upon the Forum and the Iraqi government

to take concrete measures and steps to prevent violence and provide protection for the security

of religious minorities by:

1. Including members of minorities in security forces

2. Adopting a national strategy to promote the principles of tolerance ,reconciliation

. coexistence and social peace.

3. Passing legislation to prosecute anyone who commits, supports or incites violence.

against minorities.

4. Abolishing any paramilitary forces in what are called 'disputed areas' and enforcing

the rule of law and order,

5. Return and re-integrate with dignity religious and -ethnic communities that have been

displaced as a result .of violence to their places. of, origin.

Thanking for your attention.