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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Seventh session  
Agenda item 4

### **HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION**

**Written statement<sup>\*</sup> submitted by the Nord-Sud XXI, a non-governmental  
organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 February 2008]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the  
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Nord Sud XXI draws the urgent attention of the Human Rights Council to the serious and widespread violations of human rights that are taking place in Iraq and strenuously requests that this situation—together with the Iraqi authorities' and occupying powers' responsibility for this situation—be considered by the Council.

While we are aware that persons attached to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights play a crucial role in reporting on human rights in Iraq, we are extremely disappointed that these reports are hardly mentioned in the Council. Indeed they are buried deep on the website of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and hardly even drawn to the attention of the members of the Council. We ask for the High Commissioner to raise this serious issue of human rights in Iraq in the Human Rights Council by bringing the reports written by her staff to the attention of the Council.

While the situation in Iraq remains on the agenda of the Security Council, the continuing serious and widespread nature of the human rights violations taking place in Iraq are a clear indication that the Security Council is unable or unwilling to take action. In such circumstances it is the Human Rights Council, answering to the UN's most democratic body, the General Assembly, which must take up this issue.

The human rights of the people of Iraq have been violated seriously—perhaps more seriously than any other time in their nation's history—since the illegal use of force against Iraq began in March 2003.

Well over one million Iraqis have been killed because of the illegal use of force against the Iraqi people.

Well over five million Iraqis have been displaced. Half are refugees, outside their own country because of the illegal use of force against the Iraqi people.

The humanitarian situation in Iraq is still deteriorating with cases of violence and discrimination multiplying at a relentless rate.

Iraq today is the worse human rights situation in the world, but it is not even discussed by the Human Rights Council, the UN's primary body for human rights issues.

We implore states to consider how this can be corrected. We hope that the Council's turning a blind-eye to the worse human rights situation in the world will not be the legacy of its early years.

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