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Items 12, 94, 103, 113 and 142  
of the preliminary list\*  
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION  
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE  
PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE  
ELECTIONS  
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF  
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN  
STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 5 April 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the attached extract from Country Reports on Human Rights Practices For 1989, published by the Department of State of the United States of America, which contains information on the situation concerning human rights in Iraq. I have underlined passages of special relevance (see annex).

In view of the importance of this information, I have the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 94, 103, 113 and 142 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative

\* A/45/50.

ANNEX\*

101st Congress  
2d Session

JOINT COMMITTEE PRINT

# COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1989

REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AND THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
U.S. SENATE

BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 116(d) AND 502B(b) OF THE  
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\* Underlining has been added by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
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## IRAQ

Iraq is in effect a one-party state governed by the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party (ABSP) through a Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) which has both executive and legislative authority under the provisional Constitution of 1968. Saddam Hussein holds decisive power as President of the Republic, Chairman of the RCC, and Secretary-General of the Regional Command of the ABSP. Two other small parties are essentially support groups for the Government. In 1989 the Government announced its intention to adopt a multiparty system enshrined in a new constitution. Elections for the National Assembly--which has few powers--were held April 1. A draft constitution which would reportedly allow a multiparty system was completed in 1989 and is expected to be put to a referendum in early 1990. It remains to be seen, however, whether this will dilute the monopoly of power held by Saddam Hussein and the ABSP. Iraq's population comprises many disparate groups, most notably Shi'a and Sunni Muslim Arabs, Kurds, Turcomans, and various Christian sects, predominantly Assyrians and Chaldeans.

Iraq's military is large and well trained, and parts of it, notably the Fursan, or Kurdish tribal levies, have responsibility for security within the Kurdish autonomous region. The National Police is responsible for civil order.

The Government exerts a high degree of control over the economy, dominated by the petroleum sector, and owns all major industries. The Government has been carrying out a program of divestiture and privatization in agriculture, tourism, services, and light industry, and is trying to attract investor capital and expertise in the operation of the economy. However, close government regulation of economic activity is expected to continue.

Iraq's human rights record remained abysmal in 1989. Effective opposition to government policy is stifled; the intelligence services engage in extensive surveillance and utilize extralegal means, including torture and summary execution, to deal with antiregime activity. The civil rights of Iraqi citizens continue to be sharply limited, and Iraqis do not have the right to change their government. The freedoms of speech and press and of assembly and association are virtually nonexistent. Other important human rights problems include continuing disappearances and arbitrary detentions, lack of fair trial, widespread interference with privacy, excessive use of force against Kurdish civilians, and an almost total lack of worker rights. In addition to the repressive domestic controls that predate the war with Iran, tight wartime controls, including travel restrictions, remain in effect despite the August 1988 cease-fire with Iran.

An armed Kurdish insurgency continued in 1989, but at a reduced level. Although there were no allegations that the Government used chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians in 1989, as it did in 1988, in its efforts to crush the rebellion, it continued to violate the human rights of elements of the Kurdish population. The Government announced in June that in its campaign to suppress the rebellion it has pursued a program since 1987 of establishing a depopulated security zone along the full length of Iraq's borders with Iran and Turkey. Under this program, the Government has destroyed villages within a 30-kilometer-wide zone and relocated approximately 500,000 Kurdish and Assyrian inhabitants into more easily controlled and protected towns.

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cities, and newly constructed settlements in traditional Kurdish areas.

### RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

#### a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

For years execution has been an established Iraqi method for dealing with perceived political and military opponents of the government, including, but not limited to members of the outlawed Da'wa organization (an Iran-supported fundamentalist Shi'a Muslim group that has engaged in acts of international terrorism). In some cases, a family only learns that one of its members has been executed when the security services return the body and require the family to pay a fine.

Amnesty International (AI), in its presentation before the U.N. Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August, stated that it had received allegations that some 80 army deserters were executed in December 1988 and charged that the Government executed 11 of its Kurdish opponents in March and April 1989.

In its February report, "Iraq: Children: Innocent Victims of Political Repression," AI stated that it receives allegations of hundreds of executions in Iraq each year. AI cited the case of 29 Kurdish children and youths allegedly executed in January 1987. In addition, AI, in its 1989 Report covering 1988, cited allegations that hundreds of civilians, including women and children, were executed at Tanjaro Military Garrison, Sulaimaniya province. Independent information to confirm the allegations cited in AI reports is not available.

#### b. Disappearance

In the February report, AI asserted that thousands of people arrested over the years by Iraqi security or intelligence forces reportedly have "disappeared" while in detention, with many feared executed. In its August presentation to the U.N. Subcommittee, AI reported the disappearance in mid-April of Mulla Muhammad Dalgayi, described as the imam of Qal'at Diza, who was among delegates from Kurdistan who reportedly met with government officials to appeal against forced settlement of the Kurds at Qal'at Diza. He was reportedly arrested in Baghdad and has since disappeared. An Assyrian organization based in the United States charged in March that the whereabouts of 33 Assyrians, who took advantage of the amnesty issued by the Government and returned to Iraq from Iran and Turkey, were unknown.

#### c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Constitution prohibits torture and prescribes stiff punishment for it, but it is clear that both physical and psychological torture are used by the authorities, especially the security police. Given the rigid chain of command within the Government and the security services, torture could not be practiced without the knowledge or authorization of senior officials.

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Emigre groups and former prisoners assert that persons detained by the security police for political or security-related matters are frequently tortured and mistreated. Treatment is reported to be worst immediately following arrest and during the period of interrogation and investigation, which can last for months. Torture and brutal treatment are not limited to political cases.

Security-related offenses are broadly defined and include such routine criminal matters as currency violations.

In its 1989 Report, AI stated that the routine torture and ill-treatment of prisoners continued to be widely reported. It said the victims included detainees below the age of 18 who were reportedly beaten, whipped, given electric shocks, and deprived of food. The Government categorically denied any use of torture against children as an official policy or as a practice, and stated its readiness to consider fully any individual allegation with a view to bringing perpetrators to justice. Impartial observers have so far been unable to look into these allegations.

### d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile

While the Constitution and legal code provide for the rights of citizens and place checks on police powers in such areas as arrest, detention, imprisonment, and search, these provisions have virtually no weight in political or national security cases, although they are generally respected in ordinary criminal cases. Security police not only make arbitrary arrests but also secretly detain suspects, whose fate sometimes becomes known only after they have been executed. Security charges have included espionage, treason, and conspiracy against Iraq, often in collaboration with unnamed foreign enemies.

The relocation of 500,000 Kurdish villagers to other areas of Kurdistan since 1987 may be considered a form of internal exile. The Government declared in June 1989 that it was creating an uninhabited security zone to ensure the safety and security of citizens in the border regions (who were subjected to shelling and military operations during the war with Iran) and to provide better services to the villagers.

Although the Government has ceased expelling Iraqis of supposed Iranian descent, most of the few remaining Iraqis have been imprisoned or live under the fear of deportation or incarceration. Spouses of Iraqis of Iranian origin are required to obtain a divorce or suffer the same consequences. Moreover, other Iraqis, whose grandparents are shown not to be of Iraqi origin, are subject to arbitrary detention and deportation.

With regard to forced or compulsory labor, see Section 5.c.

### e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Iraq's legal system provides for investigation by police and then by an inquiry judge who may refer a case to the courts or dismiss it. Judges try criminal cases; there are no juries. Convictions may be appealed to the Court of Appeal and then to the Court of Cassation, the supreme court. There are no Shari'a courts per se in Iraq; however, family courts administer Shari'a law modified by Iraqi custom.

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Trials of ordinary cases are held in civil, criminal, and religious courts and are open. Defendants are entitled to counsel--at government expense if the defendant is indigent. Charges and evidence are available for review by the lawyer. Appellate courts hear cases not under the jurisdiction of the Revolutionary Courts.

In contrast to ordinary cases, security cases are handled by the Revolutionary Courts, which usually hold closed trials. Security cases include espionage, treason, smuggling, currency exchange violations and drug trafficking. The right of defense in such courts is said to be severely restricted. The "special courts" constituted by the RCC for specific incidents, such as the reported conspiracy against the regime in 1979, are also closed. These special tribunals are apparently exempt from constitutional safeguards of defendants' rights; defendants are held incommunicado, and confessions extracted by torture are admissible. Appeals can be taken only to the chairman of the RCC. However, the utility of this appeal is questionable, since there are reports that executions take place shortly after trial.

Political dissent in Iraq is taken by the authorities to encompass a wide range of activities and, in an environment where public acknowledgement of arrest or imprisonment is rare, it is extremely difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners. In its 1989 Report, AI stated that "thousands" of political prisoners continued to be arbitrarily arrested and detained, especially members of prohibited political parties, Army deserters, and draft resisters. Relatives, including children of suspects, are said to be held as hostages to compel confessions.

### f. Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

The Constitution provides protections for the inviolability of the home, and strong cultural values reinforce these protections. Police must obtain a search warrant before entering the home of a criminal suspect. However, warrants are not required for the arrest of security suspects. Although most arrests occur outside the home, there have been reports of forced entry and arrest by the security police, particularly of suspected members of the outlawed Da'wa organization.

Although the Constitution provides for the confidentiality of mail and telegraphic and telephone correspondence, many Iraqis believe that the monitoring of telephones is a common practice and that all mail is subject to review by censors. The security services and Ba'ath Party maintain pervasive networks of informers. The Government maintains a close watch against Iranian attempts to exploit dissatisfaction among Iraqi Shi'a, who adhere to the branch of Islam prevalent in Iran.

### 4. Use of Excessive Force and Violations of Humanitarian Law in Internal Conflicts

Elements of Iraq's Kurdish population have engaged in armed struggle with all governments of Iraq periodically since the 1920's. The outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 sparked a new antigovernment insurgency by Kurdish elements, many of whom fought with or aided Iran during the war. From 1981 to 1989, the Government's efforts to crush the rebellion militarily resulted in approximately 8,000 deaths, many of

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them civilians killed indiscriminately by chemical weapons in 1988.

Although the fighting was at a reduced level in 1989, Kurdish military operations continued, as did government measures to contain them. Kurdish rebels continued to announce their hostility towards the central Government. On August 29, 1989, the leader of one group of insurgents stated to the press in Geneva that his group would target foreign interests in Iraq supporting the Iraqi regime. At year's end, the cycle of Kurdish rebellion and government repression remained unresolved.

### Section 2 Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:

#### a. Freedom of Speech and Press

The freedoms of speech and press are not respected. The Constitution prohibits "any act aimed at undermining the national unity of the people, provoking racial, sectarian, and regional bigotry, or violating gains and achievements of the country." The Government views political dissent as a threat to its security and strictly controls speech and all information media. All publications are subject to censorship. The Government and the Ba'ath Party own and operate the press, radio, and television. The media do not criticize the Government, and news reporting is strongly biased. There is no presentation of opposition viewpoints.

Few foreign periodicals reach Iraq and those that do may be censored. Western newspapers are not sold. Foreign visitors' magazines, newspapers, cassettes, cameras, and video cassettes may be confiscated at the airport. To control the dissemination of political leaflets, word processors and computers must be registered. Failure to register is a criminal offense. Iraqis no longer need to register their typewriters or photocopiers, but foreigners in Iraq must do so. Taking photographs of military installations, government buildings, or areas near sensitive locations is forbidden and punishable by imprisonment. Journalists and photographers visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Government are required to present film taken in Iraq for inspection by the authorities.

#### b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

These freedoms are severely limited. Public meetings may only be organized under the auspices of the Government or the Ba'ath Party. Association for nonreligious purposes and demonstrations without government approval have met with severe repression. Professional organizations are subject to control by the Ba'ath Party Central Vocational Bureau.

For a discussion of freedom of association as it applies to labor unions, see Section 6.a.

#### c. Freedom of Religion

Iraq is an ethnically and religiously diverse society. Since its rise to power in 1968, the Ba'ath Government, while carefully controlling religious groups, has enforced tolerance of religious diversity, seeking to submerge religious differences in the promotion of secular nationalism. A 1981 law gave the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs the authority to promulgate laws and regulations governing places

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of worship, appointment of clergy, publication of religious literature, and participation in religious councils and meetings. Muslim religious leaders operate under close government supervision, are considered government employees, and receive their salaries through the Government. The Government administers the principal Muslim shrines and mosques and has provided allotments to them and to churches for maintenance and refurbishing. There are no penalties under Iraqi law for changing one's religion, although there is a social stigma for Muslims who convert to another faith.

While the Government has assumed much greater authority in Islamic religious affairs since 1981, it has been less intrusive into the religious affairs of Iraq's Christians, who number more than 500,000 and constitute nearly 4 percent of the population. Their freedom of worship in churches of established denominations is legally protected, but they are not permitted to proselytize or to hold meetings outside church premises. Convents and monasteries exist, and some new churches have been constructed, in some cases with government financial support. The Jewish community has decreased from 150,000 following World War II to under 400. There is no evidence of recent persecution. One synagogue in Baghdad still functions.

### d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

Iraqis are generally free to travel within the country and to change their residences or workplaces. However, they are likely to be constrained by social, cultural, and religious traditions which define the areas occupied by the various ethnic and religious groups. Sensitive border and other security areas are off limits. There are police checkpoints on highways and outside major towns, but Iraqis and nondiplomatic foreigners travel freely in nonrestricted areas.

The Government's harsh campaign to suppress Kurdish rebels, involving mass relocations of Kurdish villagers, has nullified the right of hundreds of thousands of Kurds to choose their place of residence. Since the Government began its program of forced relocation in 1987, an estimated 500,000 people have been uprooted. Since traditional Kurdish culture has been deeply embedded in the rural village, the forced removals and razing of villages has had a destructive impact on the lives of some half a million Kurds.

Most foreigners who remain in the country for more than 30 days and all Iraqis must obtain exit permission. Travel has been severely limited since September 1986, when the Government imposed tight restrictions on currency exchange. These restrictions were eased somewhat in 1989, but the most an Iraqi may exchange is 1,000 dinars (\$3,220). Because of the drain on the economy caused by the war and reconstruction, permission to travel abroad is restricted to a few categories of Iraqis, including officials, businessmen, government-approved students, and persons needing medical treatment. In 1989 the Government eased restrictions to permit one parent to visit his or her offspring who is studying or working abroad.

While permission for medical treatment abroad may be granted, permission to transfer hard currency abroad to pay for it may not be. In cases of those desiring medical treatment in the United States, the Government now requires a bond to be posted by an American friend or relative with the Iraqi embassy in



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Washington before exit permission is granted. The minimum amount of this bond is \$10,000. The Government sometimes limits the countries an Iraqi traveler may visit and, should the traveler visit a nonauthorized country, a small fine may be levied upon his return. Iraqis who have residences abroad may depart the country, provided they originally left before the war began. A married woman must have the permission of her husband to travel abroad.

The Government can require a prospective traveler to post a substantial bond to assure his return. The RCC decreed in 1987 that Iraqi students abroad who refuse to return to Iraq must reimburse the Government for all education received in Iraq or abroad at government expense. The decree is applicable retroactively to students who have refused to return since May 16, 1983, the date the Government began requiring employees leaving government jobs before 20 years of service to reimburse the State for the cost of their education. Amounts due can be recovered by confiscation; nonpayment may result in imprisonment. Each student must provide a guarantor before traveling abroad. This guarantor and the student's parents may be held liable if the student fails to return.

There is no specific ban on emigration or special restrictions for members of minority groups; however, emigration is discouraged. For the past several years, almost all of those given permission to emigrate have been Christian Iraqi wives of former Iraqi citizens now living abroad as citizens of another country. Prospective emigrants have had travel permission delayed and have been harassed. Many emigrants leave behind substantial property because of the difficulty of exporting assets. Currency exchange violations are considered national security offenses, and penalties can be severe.

Non-Iraqi spouses of Iraqi citizens who have resided in Iraq for 5 years are required to take Iraqi nationality or leave Iraq. Many people, including several Americans, have thus been obliged to accept Iraqi citizenship and are therefore subject to the present travel restrictions. In March 1984, an order by the RCC reduced the residency period before naturalization to 1 year for the spouses of Iraqi citizens employed in government offices. The Iraqi spouse faces penalties for noncompliance, including loss of job, a fine of approximately \$10,000, and repayment of the costs of education. Iraq does not recognize the concept of dual nationality, and many Iraqi "dual nationals," especially the children of an Iraqi father and a mother of non-Iraqi birth, have been denied permission to leave Iraq to visit the country of their other nationality.

In recent years, the Government has instituted special programs to encourage repatriation of qualified professionals. Aliens of Iraqi origin can apply for a document permitting them to enter and exit from Iraq without a visa.

Other persons of Iraqi origin are permitted to return, including many persons who were admitted to other countries as refugees. A number of such people, especially Assyrian Christians, have returned on temporary visits. They are free to come and go, within the limits of the present travel restrictions, since they are not considered to have violated Iraqi laws. However, those who emigrated only after the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, including several U.S.

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permanent resident aliens, have been unable to depart from Iraq after returning. In September and November 1988 and in February and March 1989, the Government announced amnesties for Kurds who fled the country for any reason. Approximately 2,000 have voluntarily returned from refugee camps in Turkey.

### Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

Iraqi citizens do not have the ability peacefully to change their government. President Saddam Hussein and the RCC rule Iraq through the Ba'ath Party. It reportedly has some 1.5 million adherents, representing about 9 percent of the population.

There are two other small legal political parties, both Kurdish. They and the Ba'ath Party constitute the Patriotic and Progressive National Front, essentially a vehicle of support for the Government. Members of the military or security services may engage in political activities only within the Ba'ath Party. Association with the party is not required for appointment to senior government positions or military ranks or election to the National Assembly, but is normally necessary to attain political influence. Opposition groups, including various Kurdish groups and splinter parties, are severely repressed. The Communist Party was removed from the National Front and declared illegal in 1979. The Da'wa organization, a violent Shi'ite group, is still proscribed, and its members are subject to incarceration and execution, as are members of other parties believed to be cooperating with Iran. Plans the Government announced in 1988 to permit legal formation of opposition parties were not implemented in 1989.

General elections were held for the 250-seat National Assembly in April. Though in theory possessing a wide range of official duties, the Assembly exercises little real authority. The majority of the more than 900 candidates were independents, although all supported current government policies. The elections by secret ballot were more open than in the past, and some high-ranking Baath party officials were defeated.

The biennial elections for the Legislative Assembly of the Kurdish Autonomous Region were held in September 1989. All 174 candidates, from the three legal parties and independents, had to satisfy the same requirements as National Assembly candidates. The Legislative Assembly does not exercise meaningful authority.

In October 1989, an Experts Commission finished drafting a new Constitution to replace the Provisional Constitution of 1970. Iraqi officials assert that the new Constitution will provide more guarantees of human rights. However, the new Constitution has not yet been made public pending approval by President Saddam Hussein and the RCC.

### Section 4 Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

The Government allows one human rights group to operate inside Iraq, but this is largely under government control. The Government has rarely cooperated with private foreign groups.

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or international organizations in investigating events or practices in Iraq.

The Government denies charges that it violates human rights, and claims that the information on which AI and other human rights groups base their charges comes from pro-Iranian and Kurdish Iraqi exile groups in London and Paris. In its 1989 report on children in Iraq, AI cited several instances in which Iraqi authorities had commented on AI reports or responded to AI inquiries, but in each case these authorities had defended the Government's actions as justifiable or denied the accuracy of AI's information. A resolution before the U.N. Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August 1989, recommending that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights study the human rights situation in Iraq, was narrowly defeated.

Iraq does cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in efforts to resettle Iranian civilian refugees in third countries, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has had a permanent representative in Iraq since April 1988 who registers Iranian refugees and works for their resettlement.

### Section 5 Discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Religion, Language, or Social Status

The Ba'ath Party is committed to the equality of the sexes, and a series of laws since it came to power in 1968 has steadily improved the status of women. There have been laws to protect women from exploitation in the workplace; grant subsidized maternity leave; permit women to join the regular army, popular army, and police forces; and equalize women's rights in divorce, land ownership, taxation, suffrage, and election to the National Assembly. In the 1970's, the Government imposed legal penalties on families that opposed sending their women to literacy schools, and on men who were seen harassing women. While the application of these laws has resulted in significant tangible improvements for women, a number of problems remain. Married women may still travel abroad only with the permission of their husbands. School enrollment of females has been increasing in recent years, reaching 45 percent in elementary schools and 36 percent in secondary schools in 1985-86.

Women represent about 47 percent of agricultural workers and about 25 percent of the total work force. The war accelerated the Government's drive to elevate the status of women, and it appears to have significantly reduced, if not removed, barriers to the acceptance of women in traditional male roles. Women are increasingly employed as architects, construction engineers, oil engineers, air traffic controllers, and factory and farm managers. Their role in the armed forces is limited to the medical field.

Violence against women, such as wife beating and rape, is known to occur but little is known about its extent. Such abuse is customarily dealt with within the tightly knit Iraqi family structure because of the value attached to personal privacy in this conservative society. Consequently, there is no public discussion of the subject, and there are no official statistics. Excessive violence against women would be grounds for divorce and criminal charges, but suits brought on these charges in Iraq are believed to be rare.

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The use of minority languages is unrestricted. Kurdish is an official language used in schools and media in Kurdish areas. Turcomans publish in their dialect of Turkish, and Christians often use Aramaic as well as Arabic.

The Shi'a, who make up roughly 55 percent of the population, have historically been economically, politically, and socially disadvantaged throughout much of the Middle East. The Government has a declared policy to raise their living standards and equalize opportunities for their economic and professional advancement. For four centuries, political power in Iraq has been concentrated in the hands of the Sunni minority. Sunni Arabs, who comprise 20 to 25 percent of Iraq's population, dominate the RCC, the Regional Command of the Ba'ath Party, and the Cabinet. However, increasing numbers of Shi'as hold prominent positions, and the economic status of the Shi'a has improved through intensive government investment in the economic and educational infrastructure of southern Iraq.

Although Christians sometimes allege discrimination in education and jobs, adherence to their religion has not prevented many from obtaining wealth and professional advancement. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, a Chaldean Christian, has represented Iraq at meetings of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Other Christians hold important official and private positions.

Citizens considered to be of Iranian origin carry special identification. They are often precluded from desirable employment and their advancement may be impeded. Many "Iranian" families have been in Iraq for generations. The two holiest shrines of Shi'a Islam, the prevalent sect in Iran, are located in Iraq. For generations Iranians have come to Najaf and Karbala on pilgrimage or to study in the seminaries, and many settled there. Some "Iranians" say their forebears were not from Iran but claimed Iranian nationality to evade Ottoman military conscription.

### Section 6 Worker Rights

#### a. The Right of Association

Trade unions independent of government control do not exist in Iraq. Under the trade union organization law of June 2, 1987, a new single trade union structure was prescribed for organized labor. Workers in private and mixed enterprises and in cooperatives--but not public employees or workers in state enterprises--have the right to join a local union committee. The committees form trade unions which in turn are part of provincial trade union federations. At the top is an umbrella organization, the Iraqi General Federation of Trade Unions, which is organically linked to the Ba'ath Party and required to promote party principles and policies among union members. The General Federation is affiliated with the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions. It is also active in the tripartite Arab Labor Organization, headquartered in Baghdad.

Although workers legally have the right to strike, after providing notice to the Labor Ministry, no such strikes were reported in 1989. There was a 1-day wildcat walkout by Egyptian workers protesting excessive work hours.

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### b. The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively

The right to bargain collectively is not recognized. Salaries for public sector workers (i.e. the bulk of the employed) are set by the Government. Wages in the private sector are set by the employers or negotiated individually with workers.

Iraq, which has ratified International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively, was criticized by the ILO's Committee of Experts (COE) in 1989 for the fact that its new labor code of 1987 fails to provide workers with protection against antiunion discrimination. The COE also expressed regret that the 1987 Act on trade union organizations did not provide for collective bargaining.

There are no export processing zones in Iraq.

### c. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor

Although compulsory labor is prohibited by law, during and shortly after the war with Iran the Popular Army, the militia of the Ba'ath Party, employed press-gang methods to draft recruits. However, these activities ceased in November 1988, and the Popular Army was for the most part demobilized in 1989.

ILO supervisory bodies again in 1989 expressed concern that the Penal Code permits the punishment of civil servants with imprisonment, including compulsory prison labor, for breaches of labor discipline, which include resigning from one's job. A November cabinet meeting, reported in the government-directed press, quoted the remark of a minister that resignation from government jobs should be free, confirming that heretofore civil servants have had to buy their way out of government service.

### d. Minimum Age for Employment of Children

Children are frequently encouraged to work as necessary to support the family, but the employment of children under age 14 is forbidden in all enterprises other than small-scale family enterprises. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 who are employed are protected by law: they work fewer hours and have more privileges than adult workers.

### e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

The workweek in urban areas is 6 days, 7 to 8 hours a day, for workers in the private and mixed sectors. These provisions do not apply to agricultural workers whose workweek and hours of work per day can vary according to individual employer-employee agreements. Hours for government employees are set by the head of the ministry for which the employee works. Many government employees routinely work longer than 8 hours a day, some of them as much as 12 hours per day.

Occupational safety programs are in effect in state-run enterprises, and inspectors make visits irregularly to private establishments. Enforcement varies widely. A government decree to extend occupational safety and health protection was issued and subsequently withdrawn in December 1988, reportedly resulting in the dismissal of the Labor Minister.

A special problem arose after the Government decided in June to reduce drastically the amount of hard currency foreign

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workers could remit. It is widely believed that the Government took this measure to "encourage" foreign workers to leave the country, thus freeing jobs for demobilized Iraqi soldiers. Workers not on contract were particularly hard hit. Most of the over 2 million Egyptian workers in Iraq were manual laborers. When they learned they would be able to transfer only \$32 per month, they began to leave Iraq in droves, an estimated 2,000 per day by air alone. Egyptian and other foreign workers in Iraq have claimed that some Iraqi employers forced them to work 12 to 15 hours a day for 8 hours' pay or refused to pay wages. The Government has admitted that Iraqi banks have been slow to pay remittances. Egyptian workers are in fact receiving their savings a year after leaving Iraq.