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Violations by Daesh and International Coalition Forces for Human Rights in Iraq: 2014-2017

أنتهاكات داعش والتحالف الدولي لحقوق الأنسان في العراق: ٢٠١٤-٢٠١٧".

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`Abstract

The aim of this research is to make an overall assessment for the situation of human rights in Iraq, taking the year 2014 as the launching point. That year witnessed the beginning of a chain of major events in the country's history; the first was the control by the elements of what is called Islamic State (IS) over most Iraqi cities in northern and western of the country, while the second was human rights violations have been committed by the extremists groups and US aristrikes and their alliaces from the other states, those who were involved in the human rights abuses such as the torturing of civilians, mass killing and enforced women into sexual slavery, in particular in areas, namely in Mosul for Yaziddis women.

The research problem is that the issue of human rights in Iraq is still fragle due to the abuse to the human rights, it has faced seriouse challenges, starting with the Saddam regiem. for its severe violations of human rights. Secret police, state terrorism, torture, mass murder, rape, deportations, forced disappearances, and assassinations, these violations have continued even after the collapsed of saddam regime in 2003. Rather the US and its allies continue to commit more crimes against civilians of the Iraqi people .The significance of

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research is to understand virouse violations that have been committed by both the Islamic State miletants and the global coalation led by the US .

This research pays an attention on the statues of human rights in Iraq subsequent to 2014 onward. In order to make the picture clearer to the reader, hidden aspects have practiced by involved actors above mentioned. The findings of the research shows that the Islamic State (IS) militants is committing genocide against humanity and the IS also is responsible for the kiddnapings, detentions, touture, ill-treatment, raping of women, sexual slavery, and the proscutions. Besides, the global coalation led-by the US and their alliances were also accused of killing civilians by aristrikes. Of the total number 3.2 million Iraqis were internally and externally displaced.

Keywords: Islamic State (IS), Daesch, US Airstrikes, Human Rights, Abuses, Assassinations, Sexual Slavery, Detention, Minorities, Internally and Externally Displaced, Civilians Victims,and genocide .

الملخص

الهدف، من البحث هو أجراء تقييم شامل لوضع حقوق الانسان في العراق، مع الأخذ بالأعتبار العام ٢٠١٤، كنقطة أنطلاق للدراسة. شهد ذلك العام بداية لسلسة أحداث رئيسية في تاريخ البلاد، الأول هو سيطرة عناصر ما يسمى بالدولة الإسلامية (IS) على معظم المدن العراقية في شمال وغرب البلاد ، في حين أن الثانية كانت انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان قد أرتكبت من قبل الجماعات المتطرفة، وكذلك الضربات الجوية للقوات الامريكية وحلفاءها من الدول الاخرى أولئك الذين تورطو في انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان مثل تعذيب المدنيين، القتل الجماعي وإجبار النساء على العبودية الجنسية ، لا سيما في المناطق مثل الموصل "نساء اليزيد". هذا البحث يلفت الانتباه إلى وضع حالة حقوق الإنسان في العراق بعد عام ٢٠١٤ فصاعداً. لأجل تقديم صورة واضحة للقارئ ، عن الجوانب المخفية التي مارست من قبل اللاعبيين المتورطين أعلاه.

أظهرت، نتائج البحث بأن عناصر تنظيم الدولة الإسلامية (داعش) قد أرتكبت جرائم إبادة جماعية ضد الإنسانية ، كما أن داعش مسؤولة عن عمليات الخطف، الأعتقال، التعذيب ، أغتصاب النساء، سوء المعاملة، والعبودية الجنسية والاحتجاجات. إلى جانب ذلك ، أتُهم التحالف الدولي بقيادة الولايات المتحدة وحلفاءها بقتل المدنيين بسبب الضربات الجوية. من أصل العدد الإجمالي ٣.٢ مليون عراقي كانوا نازحين داخليًا وخارجيًا.

الكلمات الأفتتاحية: داعش، حقوق الأنسان، العبودية الجنسية، الأعتقال، الأقليات، ا، الضحايا المدنيين والأبادة الجماعية.

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INTRDUCTION

The human rights issue in Iraq remains fragile. Due to the continuing of the armed conflict in Iraq, the lives of Iraqi people and the security situation had been affected . However the emergence of what is called Islamic State (IS)[1], in Iraq 2014 , rather is to posed ongoing *domestic security threats* in which negatively effected on a range of human rights (1), and in particular in governorates were captured by Islamic State (IS), such Mousal, Tikreat, Diyala, Anbar, and Fallujh. However there were a number of challenges have faced humn rights in Iraq following to 2014 onward. On domestic front was the emerging of conflict between the Islamic State fighters, and a mix- of Kurdish forces and the Iraqi government forces and pro-government forces (2). Terrorism and armed groups remained to pose negatively impacted on a range of human rights. In terms of injuries, killing, women, and used civilians as human shield to save its fighters (3), while on international level, it could be said that air strikes attacks led by US and their alliaces from the other forces posed another challenge to human rights situation in Iraq.That was an evidence via air strikes that targeted of civilians of the Iraqi people. Not to mention the destruction of infrastructure, houses, schools, hospitals, and other state institutions . All these factors had cast a shadow on human rights situation as a whole.

1.1 Research Aim and Significance

The rationale underpinning this research is to address the human rights violations that have been committed by both the Islamic State miletants and the global coalation led by the US . There was restriction of media activities in the areas of most unrest, with information being

[1] The Islamic state of Iraq and the levant, also known as the Islamic state of Iraq and al-Sham, the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria, officially known as the Islamic State (IS) and by its Arabic language acronomy Daesh, is a salafi Juhadst militant group and former unrecognized proto-state follow a fundamentalist, Salafi doctrine os Sunni Islam. ISIL gained global prominence in early 2014 when it drove Iraqi government forces out of key cities in its Western Iraq offensive, followed by its capture of Mousul and Sinjar massacre. See, Schwartz, Felica (23 December 2014). "One More Name for Islamic State: Daesh". *The Wall Street Journal.*

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circulated and accessed in secrecy. Individual freedom was also restricted, particularly by extremist groups. Addressing this gap will the base of this research.

1.2 THE AIM OF STUDY

The main aim of this research is to asses the overall state of human rights in Iraq after 2014, while the specific research objective is to highlight on the negative aspects have committed by extremists groups and US airstrikes against civilians from Iraqi people as well.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study aims to fill the gap in the understanding the situation of human rights to 2014. This is so important due to the controll of the extremist groups on most regions in western and northern parts of Iraq , the main research question is: To what extent the impact of the rise of ISIS on human rights situation in Iraq" This is sub-divided into specific research question: How far have rights been respected?

1.4 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There are however more than one actor who have involved in the violation of human rights in Iraq after 2014 onwards. Therefore, the study seeks to prove the following: first, Terrorism is a source of of human rights violation. Second, the US policies are also provided hotbed for human rights violations. This conclusion will be asserted by the findings of this research .

This research will consist of three main sections . The first section highlights on violations of ISIS against innocents from the Iraqi people, while the second section aims to present violations that committed by the US airstaiks and its alliaces. The final section will present the key conclusions and also offers some suggestions for areas of further research on human rights subject in post of Islamic State control in Iraq.

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Abuses by the Elements of Islamic State (IS) 2.

It is worth noting that human rights issue in Iraq had been deteriorated subsequent to 2014 onward. The evidence was that is the elements of extremists groups [IS] have used different technics against people and in particular the civilians, including women raping, Suicide attacks, car bombs, and assassinations have been significantly increased to be more common , not to mention the torture had practiced in the right of innocents (4). However, Fighting, against the Islamic State has reached at the highest level in 2016, including operations to regain Ramadi in February and Fallujah in June, and the launching of operations in October to reinstate Mosul (5).

A according to a report by Human Rights Watch in 2015, stated that the situation of human rights in Iraq has deteriorated subsequent to 2014 onward. Several violations have been committed by the extremist groups including, Suicide attacks, kidnappings, and assassinations became more common and approx. 12, 000 people were killed and injured in the period from January to December. Iraqi Security forces (6) , attacks on demonstrators on December 20, 2013, this has led the increase of armed conflict in Anbar province between civilians, Iraqi security authorities, and multiple armed groups(7). However, the conflict extend north after, Islamic State fighters controlled on Mosul on June 10. Numerous violations have committed in Iraq, including kidnappings the leaders of religious and ethnic minorities –Shia and Yezidis (8), car bombings and suicide attacks particularly in civilian areas; torture; discrimination against women; forced marriage; sexual assault and kidnappings and killings in province, not to mention slavery of some Yezidi women and girls.(9). In this regards, in an interview with a political activist (anonymous) conducted by al-Rashed television channel in Mousal,(March 2015) mentioned that:

"*Nearly 3, 320 person have been kiddnappings in Mousal governarate by the extermests groups [IS] , among them Yezidi women, men and childerns*". According to him, *"the statues of the kiddinappings were and still anonymous till now"*. (10) The same view is confirmed by another activist says that: "*Estimated 95% of the women taken captive by ISIS. Are turnd into sex slavery*" .(11).

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According to a report published by the Iraqi Centre for Human Rights in 2014, "the status of human rights in Iraq is miserable, this is an evident as violations are still continuing against the rights of civilians" Therefore, a report again highlights the reality of human rights in Iraq, it focuses on six main areas: ("displaced people, prisoners, minorities, children's rights, women's rights, freedom of expression"), (12). This was backed up by the Amnesty International report in 2014, which stated that the continuing deteriation of human rights, for example war crimes, mass killing, and many violations have been committed by the Islamic State fighter (13). The fighters of Islamic State, as they used different tactics with the civilians for example, they used children's as soldiers in their battles against the central government forces, which was condemned by a number of humanitarian organizations such the committee for human rights, and the committee for the child rights. For this point, a report UNICEF stated that "*Iraq was one of the most dangerous places in the world for children*," with 3.6 million children at critical case of death, wound, exploitation, and sexual violence (14). Furthermore, a report by International Federation of Journalists in 2016, estimated that Iraq the deadliest country in the world for journalists (15).

Furthermore, the violence against women was on the agendas of the Islamic State fighters. Addimidttely, Iraqi women faced violent violations in a areas that under the control of extremsts groups including enslavement of women and young girls (16). Those enslaved women and girls were sold and forced to become wives to the fighters of the "Islamic state" otherwise killed them for refusing to do so. Specifically, it could be said that both Turkmenian and Yazidi woman mostly are the victim among of other minorities have exposed of terrorist operations by the fighters of Islamic State. This was an evidence by Human Rights Watch report, 2016, which reveals that nearly 3,200 women and childerns have been still arrested at prisons of ISIS (17), this view was confirmed by a Amensty International Report in 2017-2018, which exposes that sextual harresment took place in

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prisons of IS, and in particular in Mousal governator, a report also condemens this act as it a part of a genocide crime (18). .

Human Rights Report in 2015, reveals that the extremists groups have implemented attacks on innocent people in areas that are ethnically mixed where Sunnis and Shias live together. These violations included kidnappings,extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture (19). This view is consistent with the

conclusions of a report by the UN in 2014, which exposes about six millions of civilian have died and nearly 3. 5 millions be forced displaced, this escalated the humancrisis, where a large number of people have been internally displaced (IDP), to the Kurdistan region which represents a safe haven. These findings are in line with the conclusions of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Report, in 2014, which reveal that around 900,000 Iraqis were internally displaced (IDP), because of conflict (20). .

However, one of negative practices of the Islamic State IS was the destruction that targeted variouse places of worship , and also the destruction of ancient historical artifacts was also on the agendas of Daesh in Iraq. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization report in 2017, condemns delebrated destruction of Nimrud city which targeted the historicl hertiages of the city by the elements of extremists groups (21). the tactic used by the IS was to consider "*criminal*" acts in international laws

3. American Militery Intervention against ISIS

By the late 2014, the US insisted to take efforts to strike military targets that related to [IS] and also it was to provide a logistical support to the Iraqi army including the Iraqi security forces in their fighting against the elements of extremists groups that have captured over the Iraqi cities in western and northern of the country.

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Addmmidtely , hundereds of civilains of the Iraqi people were as targets of the US airstrikes and their alliances of other states. According to an investagation made by the New Your Times Magazine in 2017, reveals that; "*one in five of the coalition* strikes *we identified resulted in civilian death, a rate more than 31 times*" that acknowledged by the coalition. (22). This was backed up by the guardian report reveales titled; "*US-led coalition says its strikes have killed 800 Iraqi civilians*" (23).

As, the head of Mousal Provience Council, al- Kiki Bashar, spoken to the CNN Aribic net, 5th of march 2017, stated that *at least two hundereds of civilians have been killed by the US military planes in areas located western of Mousa*l (24). This view is supported via, an interview video vioce wittenes released by the AP News in 2017, says that: *More "than 137 person were inside. Everyone from the neighborhood was fleeing because of the air strikes, so people have taken refuge here. My entire family is inside, 27 people*". (25). The AP News again realesed vido voice report in March 2017, witnesse Hevidar Ahmed, journalist , says that: *" Bodies pulled from destroyed house locals cliam was hit by air strike"* (26).

However, one of the most significant aspects of a report by Amnesty International released in July 2017 was its reference to crimes which have committed in Iraq which included murders from the Iraqi icivilains, including women children and old men, Amnesty said as many as 5,805 civilians were killed in Iraqi by alliance strikes in the Mosul campaign from 19 February to 19 June 2017 (27). This that was incompatible with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as International Conventions; although the United States of America itself is a founding member, it is going against the rules of international humanitarian law (28).

The overall, the outcomes since August 2014 showed that, a numbers of internally displaced persons have increased from 1.7 to 3 million in March 2016, due to the

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violence, acts of terrorism, illegal practices of IS, and the US aristriks were targeted civilians from the Iraqi peolep. Closely 19,000 civilians were killed by the IS attcks from January 2014 and October 2015.(29) Nearly, 1,700 Shia Iraqi Air Force have excuted in Tikrit by the elements of IS, it could be said that the Speicher act is to consier as crime committed in the right of humanity (30). The Associated Press quoted in AP News, that: *"of the 72 mass grives*" had been exsposed in Iraq by Iraqi army and Iraqi security forces, and in particular in a regions were captured by the IS, and even the number known of victims are spectacular from 5, 200 to more than 15,000 (31)

The US air strikes have also negatively impacted on a range of human rights, via the impact on live of civilians. That was an evidence via a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) in 2016, had revealed that close to 9,153 Iraqi civilian have been killed by US airstrikes since January 2016 to December 2017 (32).

Furthermore, the destruction of the infrastructure and\or the properties of the people was on agendas also have been targeted by the alliance forces and in particular in areas were under the captured of the elements of the ISIS. Human Rights Watch Report, 2017, has documented that: "*a pattern of unlawful destruction of Arab homes and sometimes of entire Arab villages*", (33).

4. Conclustion

This research examined human rights issue in Iraq subsequent to 2014 onward, and in particular after the emerged of extremests groups in western and northern of the country. As the research has revealed that, first, the elements of extrmists groups have committed violations such, ill-treatment and torture, death penalty, second the research puts also the blame on US government as a source of the violation, rather the US contributed to the abuse to the human rights via their aristries that shooted down toward fighters of IS, but in reality the airstrikes were targeted the civilians more than fighters of [IS]. .

However, as the research has concluded that both the ISIS and US governmrnt were responsible regarding the deteroation of human rights in Iraq between 2014 to 2017. That was an evidence and confirmed by a number of global reports such the Amenisty Internatinal report , Human Rights Watch and the Iraqi center for human rights . The research also puts the blame on successive Iraqi governments were inability to address the political and security complaints that led to the emergence of the extremists groups, that this

concurrently with a new wave of violence and extremism. Besides that there was no certain programm to address the problems such the issues of migrants and displaced that have emerged subsequent to the liberated of regions from Deash .

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