



Iraq - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 11 February 2010.

Re: Information on the treatment of people working for American Forces.

A report by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“Since 2003, armed groups opposed to communities of different faiths living in their vicinity, especially ones with perceived ties to the supposedly Christian West (and, by association, with the multinational forces in Iraq—they are perceived as accounting for a high proportion of the translators working for US forces, for example) have repeatedly attacked the Chaldo- Assyrian community.” (Human Rights Watch (10 November 2009) *On Vulnerable Ground: Violence against Minority Communities in Nineveh Province’s Disputed Territories* pg 37)

Another report by *Human Rights Watch* states:

“Others, such as this 33-year-old man of mixed Sunni-Shi`a parentage, told Human Rights Watch how they escaped from Sunni militias: I have a Sunni father and a Shi`a mother. Because we are half Sunni and half Shi`a, everyone sees us as spies. We pray in the Shi`a way. When Sunnis see me pray, they look at me like I`m an animal, like I am the enemy. Two of my brothers worked as translators for the Americans. A terrorist killed one of my brothers, Ali. [He shows a photo of the dead brother and his death certificate.] They told Ali to come with them, got him alone, and then shot him four times in the chest. The same people who killed my brother are the ones who hate me for praying the Shi`a way” (Human Rights Watch (26 November 2008) *Stuck in a Revolving Door: Iraqis and Other Asylum Seekers and Migrants at the Greece/Turkey Entrance to the European Union*)

The Times reports:

“Gordon Brown has ordered an urgent review into the plight of 91 Iraqi translators abandoned by Britain to persecution and death as a political campaign in favour of granting them asylum gathered pace. “[...]”

Also in this article:

“There was also fury among soldiers who have served in Iraq. One Territorial Army officer who served in Basra in 2003-04 said that his interpreter was visited by militia who held a gun to the head of his wife and children. They threatened to kill him and his family if he did not leave in three days. “Yet when I took up his case with the Home Office, he was immediately turned down for refugee status,”

Major Andrew Alderson, of the TA Queen's Own Yeomanry, said." (The Times (8.8.2008) *Brown intervenes over the Iraqi interpreters denied political asylum*

A *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* news article from July 2008 states:

"The U.S. government and military have employed thousands of Iraqis since the 2003 invasion, and many have been killed or face the threat of death from insurgents who view them as collaborators." (Pittsburgh Tribune Review (25 July 2008) – *Iraqis who aided U.S. may get visas*)

Section II.A of a *UNHCR* document from August 2007 under the heading 'Security, Political and Human Rights Situation' states:

"Insurgent groups have also targeted Yazidis for their (perceived) support for the US-led invasion and the presence of the MNF, considering them collaborators. For example, Marwan Khalil Murad, who worked as a project director for international aid organizations, was reportedly shot and wounded after he had hosted 20 Americans in his home in Sinjar. Others have been targeted for their political activities and support for the political process." (UNHCR (August 2007) *UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers*)

An October 2005 report from *Human Rights Watch* under the heading "The Victims" states:

"A second targeted category is Iraqis who work for foreign governments or their armed forces as reconstruction contractors, translators, cleaners, and drivers or in other non combatant jobs. Some insurgent groups consider Iraqis in these positions to be collaborators, and attacks against them are apparently meant as punishment and as a warning to others. In one case documented in this report, gunmen killed three women as they left a U.S. military base in Mosul where they worked as cleaners, and attacks like this have been frequent across Iraq." (Human Rights Watch (03 October 2005) *A Face and a Name – Civilian Victims of Insurgent Groups in Iraq*, p. 4)

According to the *United Kingdom Home Office Report*:

"civilians employed or otherwise affiliated with the MNF-I are at risk of being targeted by non-state actors. In areas where security has improved over the last year, the risks to persons affiliated with the MNF-I have diminished to some extent, but are still considerable given the continued influence of extremist groups. In areas where AQI and other insurgent groups continue to be present, in particular in Ninewa and Diyala Governorates, the risk of being targeted remains much higher. The risk is particularly high for persons working as interpreters for the MNF-I given their exposure and possible involvement in military activities, e.g. arrests, raids or interrogation of insurgent or militia members. Reportedly, some 300 interpreters have been killed in Iraq since 2003. There is also a heightened risk of attack in areas with a high concentration of foreign personnel such as the IZ or military compounds, particularly at checkpoints approaching

these facilities and when travelling in military convoys² (United Kingdom Home Office (10 December 2009) Country of Origin Information Report - Iraq par 8.99)

The report goes on to say;

“Iraqi nationals employed by foreign companies are at risk of being attacked when outside a secure compound such as the IZ [International Zone] or a military base” (Ibid par 8.99)

Reference

Human Rights Watch (10 November 2009) *On Vulnerable Ground: Violence against Minority Communities in Nineveh Province's Disputed Territories*
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4afa7b0a2.pdf>
(Accessed 11 February 2010)

Human Rights Watch (26 November 2008) *Stuck in a Revolving Door: Iraqis and Other Asylum Seekers and Migrants at the Greece/Turkey Entrance to the European Union*
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/greeceturkey1108web_0.pdf
(Accessed 11 February 2010)

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<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article2217938.ece>
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UNHCR (August 2007) *UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/46deb05557.pdf>
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UNHCR (April 2009) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/49f569cf2.pdf>

(Accessed 11 February 2010)

USA Today (3 February 2010) *Make room for Iraqis*

<http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20070219/edittwo19.art.htm>

(Accessed 11 February 2010)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources consulted

All Africa

BBC News

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Danish Immigration Service

ECOI

IRIN News

LEXIS NEXIS

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

Relief Web

Google

Refugees International

UNHCR Refworld