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## **Iraqi Alliance for human rights organizations**

29 to 31 October 2009

The first forum of human rights defenders in Iraq

### **Statement of Establishment**

Upon the initiative taken by the Public Aid Organization (PAO) and support from the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) the first forum of Human Rights Organizations was held in Erbil on October 29-31, 2009. The forum saw the participation of more than 30 NGOs representing all Iraqi provinces. The former KRG minister of civil society, Mr. George Mansour was also in attendance. During the first day of the forum participants discussed human rights situation in Iraq with a focus on important challenges and opportunities facing the Iraqi citizen. The second day of the forum participants discussed the structure, bylaws, and the work plan for the next four years. Participants then approved these documents, while agreeing to establish a coalition under the name of Iraqi Alliance for Human Rights Organizations. The main goal and objectives of the coalition as agreed to by the participants:

**General goal:** protecting and promoting human rights.

- **Short-term goals:**

1. Expand the alliance in order to unify the efforts of civil society organizations to promote human rights in Iraq.
2. Increase the knowledge and skills of the national NGOs in terms of UPR.
3. Building/developing capabilities of civil society organizations and sharing information and experiences in the field of human rights.
4. Monitoring the performance of state authorities and to further monitor human rights violations.
5. Raising awareness and spreading the concepts of human rights while conducting studies and research in order to improve the human rights situation.

The board of directors of the alliance was elected through a democratic process. The board of directors held its first meeting on the third day of the forum to define the tasks of each member organization and to help open the doors for other Iraqi human rights organizations to join the alliance in the future. The alliance seeks cooperation and coordination between all local, national, and international human rights institutions for the implementation of joint programs in order to achieve the set goals.

Erbil, 31 / October / 2009

For more information please call:



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**Founding institutions of the Alliance:**

1. Iraqi institute for support democracy
2. Aizidyan league for fraternity and solidarity
3. Legal and social clinic organization.
4. National institute for human rights.
5. National association for human rights.
6. Iraqi institute for human rights.
7. Human justice organization.
8. Human rights organization
9. Babylon national association for human rights
10. Humanitarian association for human rights.
11. Chaldean Culture Society.
12. Siwan Organization for women development.
13. Life for women organization.
14. Insan cultural foundation.
15. Zaman Organization for women support.
16. Women's Association for reform and development.
17. Faith Association to support widows.
18. Public Aid organization.
19. Kurdish Human Rights Watch.
20. Al-Masalla organization for human resources.
21. Human Rights trainers' league.
22. Democracy and Human Rights studies center.
23. Iraqi associate for human rights watch
24. Iraqi Women's Association.
25. Gender studies and information center.
26. Kuvan organization for human rights
27. Hadia associate for human rights and Iraqi community development.
28. Human rights and civil society institution
29. Human without borders organization.
30. Iraqi Women's Center of reform and service.