

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

BEIRUT

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The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Beirut sends best regards to the highly respected Human Rights Watch Office in Beirut, and is honored to convey to the [HRW] Office the response of the [Iraqi] Ministry of Justice on the report entitled "**Iraq: Torture Persists in Mosul Jail**" which was published by the Organization on its website on 4/18/2019. The response includes the Ministry's establishment of a team from the Department of Human Rights / Monitoring Unit to deal with what has been indicated in the report and verify the procedures that were taken by state institutions in this regard. The team prepared a report and developed suggestions concerning the observance of human rights standards at the detention and arrest facilities in Mosul governorate. The team's report investigated the facts, and according to the report, we would like to clarify the following:

- 1- Confirm the commitment of the Iraqi Government and all Ministries to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- 2- The Iraqi Government is working on the completion of a draft law against torture and another one against forced disappearances.
- 3- The majority of detainees are provided with legal services through delegates assigned by the court to defend them in case they have no defense attorney.
- 4- Iraqi authorities would like to request from Human Rights Watch to inform the people who filed the complaints and claims for their personal rights to come to document their claims along with obtaining evidence through a decision from the medical committees to confirm torture.
- 5- The Health Department in Nineveh Governorate provides medical and health services to the detainees.
- 6- There has been no family visit ban against detainees, but the majority of families refrain from visiting their sons who are members of ISIS.

The Embassy would like to take this opportunity to express its utmost regard and appreciation.

