

Response to Human Rights Watch from the National Security Service on July 12, 2018

Greetings,

In reference to the report made by Human Rights Watch, a committee has been established as part of the National Security Service (NSS), headed by a director general and four other members. The committee initiated work on 6/11/2018, visiting the city of Mosul for several days and conducting field visits to learn about the situation on the ground. The conclusions were as follows:

- 1- Detention centers run by NSS are functioning according to standards and with the consent of the Higher Judicial Council in the Nineveh governorate.
- 2- All detainees in the custody of NSS are subject to judicial arrest warrants.
- 3- NSS does not have [multiple] detention centers; it has one detention center that is functioning according to standards, with the knowledge of the Higher Judicial Council.
- 4- Detainees are arrested based on arrest warrants, and they appear before the judiciary within a maximum of 24 hours, and the detention is extended by the competent judge.
- 5- The number of detainees varies, and it is not possible to give a fixed number. As for those who receive court sentences, they are transferred to prisons in the custody of the Ministry of Justice.
(Note: It is not possible to give any figure about the number of detainees to any unofficial body, whether local or foreign).
- 6- There are no detainees under the age of 18.
- 7- In the event of the arrest of a wanted person under the age of 18, he would be referred to the juvenile prison.
- 8- There are medical squads that visit detainees regularly, and in the case of an emergency, the detainee would be sent to the hospital.
- 9- Once the interrogation of the detainee ends, he would be allowed to contact his family.
- 10- A detainee is allowed to retain a lawyer, or the court would appoint a lawyer on behalf of the defendant.
(Note: Most lawyers in the governorate of Nineveh abstain from arguing terrorism cases.)
- 11- There has been no use of torture inside detention centers, and no signs of torture or ill-treatment have been found, knowing that there is a department within the NSS that addresses these cases if they occur.
- 12- There have been very limited cases of death, which were judicially documented.