

## **Ökande våld mot irakiska kvinnor i det ockuperade Irak**

*Amnesty International 22 februari 2005: Irakiska kvinnor i stort behov av skyddsåtgärder*

Många kvinnor och flickor i Irak lever med rädsla att utsättas för våld. Den osäkerhet som råder i landet har gjort att kvinnor inte har möjlighet till ett offentligt liv, skriver Amnesty International i en rapport om de irakiska kvinnornas situation.

Iraks långvariga konflikter med tre krig och mer än tio år av ekonomiska sanktioner har satt allvarliga spår i samhället. Och kvinnor är de som har drabbats extra hårt, enligt Amnesty. Enligt rapporten har USA:s krig och ockupation av Irak förvärrat kvinnornas situation.

Här nedan utdrag från Amnesty:s rapport om kvinnornas verklighet i det ockuperade Irak

### **Abuses by US-led forces**

The numbers of civilian casualties in Iraq remain heavily disputed. Different sources suggest that among the civilian population women are less likely than men to be killed by the US-led forces. However, the absence of sufficient data makes it difficult to draw conclusions from such findings. Between March 2003 and mid-January 2005, the Iraq Body Count had recorded between 15,300 and 17,500 "media-reported civilian deaths" resulting from US-led military intervention. A much higher figure was given in a sample-based study published in October 2004 in the UK medical journal, the Lancet, which estimated that "about 100,000 excess deaths, or more have happened since the 2003 invasion of Iraq". In response to the estimate in the Lancet, the Iraq Body Count pointed out that it counted only civilian deaths and considered its own figures to be an "underestimate of the true position".

Women have also been at risk of torture or ill-treatment as detainees in the custody of US-led forces. Reports about the torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees in Abu Ghraib prison and other US detention centres in Iraq have included allegations that women have been subjected to sexual abuse, possibly including rape.

Several women detainees have spoken to Amnesty International after their release from detention, on condition of anonymity. They reported beatings, threats of rape, humiliating treatment and long periods of solitary confinement. Some of the male detainees who alleged torture or ill-treatment in US custody said that the sexual humiliation was the worst part of their treatment. For women in Iraq, the stigma frequently attached to the victims instead of the perpetrators of sexual crimes makes reporting such abuses especially daunting.

House raids frequently conducted by the US-led forces at night have been terrifying experiences for many Iraqis. There have been particular concerns that during such operations women were exposed to male soldiers when they were not properly dressed. A former woman detainee told Amnesty International that she was arrested in August 2003 at her home in Baghdad at about 2am by US soldiers and taken in her nightclothes to al-Karrade Security Center. She was released in the evening of the same day, at around 9pm, and had to walk back home still only in her nightwear.

Läs hela rapporten! (engelska)

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