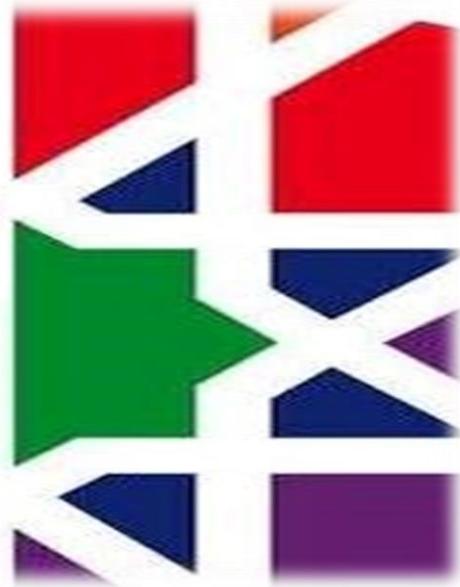




Alwan for LgbtIQ Right



### *1 Alwan Organization for LGBT+ rights*

*2 non-governmental organization concerned with the rights of the homosexual segment in the Middle East and North Africa the organization was established in Iraq in 17/11/2014 , the organization cares to monitor, document and write reports of violations of the rights and archives of homosexuals in the region, the organization believes that the culture of the other's rights is a culture To deal with members of society by working to protect them where this has been available and to defend these rights where possible guided by international and national laws that preserve human dignity and rights.*

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*Cover photo : The logo of the Organization for the Rights of the gay rights in the Middle East and North Africa.*

**LGBT PEOPLE IN IRAQ HAVE LONG BEEN PERSECUTED. BUT THE RISING TIDE OF TURMOIL TODAY PUTS MANY AT IMMINENT RISK OF DEATH. THE IRAQI SOCIETY AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT PRESCRIBES DEATH FOR THE “PRACTICE” OF HOMOSEXUALITY. FURTHERMORE, EVIDENCE GATHERED FOR TWO BRIEFINGS BY ALWAN , DEMONSTRATE THE DIRECT EFFECT OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE RULE OF LAW ON LGBT PERSONS, THROUGH .UNFETTERED VIOLENCE BY SECTARIAN MILITIAS**

**WHILE THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ HAS PLACED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS AT RISK OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, LGBT IRAQIS FACE UNIQUE THREATS TO THEIR SAFETY. IN ADDITION, ESCAPE TO PREVIOUSLY SAFER AREAS , HAS BEEN CURTAILED BY THE CONFLICT. UNLIKE OTHER GROUPS, SUCH AS WOMEN OR ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, LGBT PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE COMMUNAL SAFETY OR PROTECTION FROM FAMILY, TRIBAL OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. ONCE EXPOSED, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ALONG WITH THE AUTHORITIES, ARE OFTEN COMPLICIT IN ABUSES AGAINST LGBT .INDIVIDUALS**

**WHEN COMING OUT IS A DEATH SENTENCE PUTS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT IRAQIS IN CONTEXT—AS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THAT MUST BE CONFRONTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS TARGETS FOREIGN EMBASSIES, AID GROUPS AND OTHERS WITH THE GOAL OF RAISING ATTENTION AND TRYING TO IMPROVE .THE SITUATION FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**“WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU” : A CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE ALWAN “ ORGANIZATION IN EARLY 2018 TO COLLECT CERTIFICATES IN IRAQI FOR LGBT PEOPLE’S ACCOUNTS OF VIOLENCE AND RIGHTS ABUSES,” RELATES THE SUFFERING AND HARROWING EXPERIENCES OF FIVE LGBT INDIVIDUALS – NINE GAY MEN, AND TWO LESBIAN WOMAN AND THREE TRANSGENDER WOMAN -- FROM VARIOUS IRAQI CITIES, FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. “WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU” HIGHLIGHTS THE LONG-STANDING EXCLUSION, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT INDIVIDUALS IN IRAQ AND DESCRIBES THE INDIVIDUALS’ DAILY STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE AND .OVERCOME VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

**WHEN COMING OUT IS A DEATH SENTENCE: PERSECUTION OF LGBT IRAQIS**

**DESPITE THE DIFFICULTY OF SECURING INTERVIEWS WITH LGBT INDIVIDUALS IN IRAQ , BUT THE TEAM OF ACTIVISTS DEVISED NEW AND SECRET WAYS TO MEET HOMOSEXUALS, AND WITHOUT BRINGING THE . ATTENTION**

**IN ALL OVER IRAQ, THE SITUATION FOR LGBT INDIVIDUALS IS HIGHLY PRECARIOUS, DUE TO THE RISE OF MILITIAS. IN JUNE AND JULY, AT LEAST**

**TWO MILITIA ATTACKS TOOK PLACE IN BAGHDAD AGAINST INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF THEIR REAL OR PERCEIVED SEXUAL CONDUCT OR SEXUALITY.**

**ON MARCH 14, 2018, THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN FROM THE CITY OF MOSUL WAS FOUND KILLED BY A AUNT BECAUSE OF SUSPICIONS OF A GAY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2018, THE BODIES OF NINE HOMOSEXUALS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN VARIOUS IRAQI CITIES, SOME OF THEM DUMPED IN WASTE COLLECTION SITES AND OTHERS IN RIVER STREAMS , AND INJURING AN ADDITIONAL FOUR. WITNESSES BELIEVE THE ATTACK WAS MOTIVATED BY HATRED OF WHAT MILITIA CONSIDERED SEXUAL “DEVIANCE,” WHETHER IN THE FORM OF BUYING OR SELLING SEXUAL SERVICES, OR BEING THOUGHT .TO BE GAY**

**IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018, AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY PUBLISHED CHANNEL (IRAQI HORIZONS) AND ANY CHANNEL OF AN IRAQI POLITICAL PARTY, PUBLISHING A VIDEO THAT INCITES THE COMMUNITY AND MILITIAS .OF THE GOVERNMENT TO KILL HOMOSEXUALS**

**CERTAINLY, LGBT IRAQIS ARE NOT THE ONLY GROUP AT RISK IN THE COUNTRY . OVER 400,000 IRAQIS HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES , TODAY THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 1.8 MILLION IRAQIS CONSIDERED INTERNALLY . DISPLACED**

**BUT COMPARED TO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS FACING PERSECUTION AND THREATS TO THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS TODAY, LGBT IRAQIS MAY BE THE LEAST PROTECTED IN TERMS OF THREATS TO THEIR SAFETY BECAUSE THEIR PERSECUTORS RANGE ACROSS SOCIETY AT LARGE; THEY HAVE LITTLE TO NO FAMILY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT OR GOVERNMENT PROTECTION AND THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE MAY PUT THEM AT RISK IN PUBLIC. IN ADDITION THEY FACE RISK AND HOSTILITY IN . REFUGEE CIRCUMSTANCES**

## **CHALLENGES FACING THE LIVES OF THE HOMOSEXUALS IN IRAQ**

### **AT THE WORKING LEVEL**

**FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2017 UNTIL APRIL 2018, 23 PEOPLE WERE DISMISSED OR EXPELLED FROM WORK IN VARIOUS CITIES IN IRAQ DUE TO SUSPICION OF THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY**

### **AT THE HEALTH LEVEL**

**FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2017 UNTIL APRIL 2018, THE TREATMENT OF 18 PATIENTS WITH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS OR PRIVATE CLINICS WAS REFUSED DUE TO SUSPICION OF THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY**

### **AT THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL**

**FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2017 UNTIL APRIL 2018, 6 STUDENTS WERE SEPARATED FROM IRAQI PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES DUE TO SUSPICION OF THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY**

### **AT THE LEGAL LEVEL**

**SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2017 UNTIL APRIL 2018, 91 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR REASONS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION. THE IRAQI LAW IS A RUBBER LAW AND STIPULATES THAT "ANYONE WHO COMMITS AN ACT CONTRARY TO PUBLIC MORALS OR COMMITS CORRUPTION SHALL BE IMPRISONED FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS. MANY HOMOSEXUALS ARE IMPRISONED**

### **AT THE SOCIAL LEVEL**

**SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2017 UNTIL APRIL 2018, IRAQ HAS WITNESSED THE DEATHS OF 17 PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY BY THEIR FAMILY OR THEIR TRIBES UNDER THE PRETEXT OF (SHAME OF SHAME). PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS INCIDENT IS THE KILLING OF THE SHEIKH OF THE TRIBE (SHEIKH .(JAAFAR BRAHIMI**

### **CONCLUSION**

**ALTHOUGH ELECTIONS IN APRIL 2018 ARE RELATIVELY DEMOCRATIC, THE PROBLEM OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN IRAQ IS NOT BASED SOLELY ON POLITICAL POSITIONS. THE FAMILY, SOCIETY, THE GOVERNMENT'S REGULAR MILITIAS AND THE REMNANTS OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS TO THE LIFE OF HOMOSEXUALS. IS STILL THE MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRY IN THE WORLD FOR HOMOSEXUALS, AND FROM TIME TO TIME ESCALATING VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS IN VARIOUS IRAQI CITIES AND ALSO . ANTI-GAY COMMUNITY BEHAVIOR**

**THE LGBT RIGHTS GROUP LAUNCHED ITS ANNUAL REPORT ON HOMOSEXUALITY IN IRAQ TO HIGHLIGHT THE SUFFERING OF LESBIANS, LESBIANS, BISEXUALS AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN IRAQ.**