

2012-09-04

## Fråga-svar

### **Irak. Situationen för mandéer. Ang. religionsfrihet, tvångskonvertering och säkerhetssituation. Möjlighet till myndighetsskydd**

#### **Fråga**

Hur är situationen för mandéer i Irak? Kan de fritt utöva sin religion? Förekommer tvångskonvertering? Finns myndighetsskydd att tillgå?

#### **Svar**

Mandéiska ledare uppger att de fortfarande utsätts för våld från islamister, även om det har avtagit sedan 2010. Vissa islamister försöker få religiösa minoriteter att anpassa sig till islam. (US Department of State 2012)

Some Islamic elements continued to exert pressure on society to conform to their interpretations of Islam's precepts. Although these efforts affected all citizens, non-Muslims were especially vulnerable to this pressure and violence because of their minority status and lack of protection provided by a tribal structure. For example Sabean-Mandaeans, who are few in number and live in small groups spread across the country, continued to report that they were targeted by Islamic militias. (s.9-10)

[...]

During the year, Sabean-Mandaean leaders reported that their community continued to be the target of violent attacks, although fewer than in 2010. During the year two Mandeans were killed, and two were kidnapped. There were also reports of threatening phone calls and bullets in envelopes left as a warning at Mandaean goldsmith shops. (s. 11)

Migrationsverket och Landinfo (2012) har sammanställt information baserad på en utredningsresa till Basra. Säkerhetsläget för minoriteter har förbättrats. Mandéer kan utöva sin religion i Basra.

Inga miliser angriper minoriteterna längre. Säkerheten för minoriteter är numera inte direkt dålig, men de är andra klassens medborgare.<sup>60</sup> Kurderna och sunniaraberna betraktas inte officiellt som minoriteter. Kristna och mandéer kan fritt genomföra sina religiösa ritualer och uppges ha det säkrare i Basra än i andra provinser.<sup>61</sup> (s. 16)

[...]

Mandéerna har inga stora problem nu, men de som lämnat staden kommer inte tillbaka<sup>81</sup>. De som är kvar, enligt UNHCR fler än vad siffrorna ovan pekar på, håller en låg profil.<sup>82</sup> (s.18)

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (2012):

Christian, Mandaean, and Yazidi organizations also continued to report individual cases of violence against community members in 2011, although these incidents seemed to be less frequent than in past years. For example, the Mandaean Human Rights Group reported that two Mandeans were killed in separate incidents, and two others kidnapped in a single incident, during 2011. The group has documented 175 Mandeans killed in Iraq since 2003 and hundreds more kidnapped, threatened, assaulted, raped, forcibly converted to Islam, forcibly displaced, and subjected to other crimes. Few, if any, of these individual cases ever result in investigations or prosecutions, fostering a climate of impunity for attacks against members of Iraq's most vulnerable groups

[...]

In a positive development for the smallest minorities, the Iraqi parliament (Council of Representatives or COR) that was elected in 2010 has eight seats reserved for these groups: five for Christians and one each for Mandeans, Yazidis, and Shabak.

Migrationsverket & norska Landinfo har gjort en utredningsresa till Irak 2010 och samlat in information om vilka möjligheter mandéerna har att utöva sin religion och vilket myndighetsskydd de kan förväntas erhålla. (Migrationsverket & Landinfo 2011). Från rapportens sammanfattning:

Från att ha varit 60 000 innan 2003 finns det nu bara, enligt uppgift delegationen fick del av, omkring 10 000 mandéer kvar i Irak. De är fortfarande en utsatt grupp. Trots detta har de kunnat hålla dopceremonier i Tigris i Bagdad. Polisen har skyddat dem. De flesta mandéerna har flytt utomlands. Ett fåtal är internflyktingar i den kurdiska regionen. (s. 4)

*Stycke 2 (s. 6-7) handlar om mandéerna.*

Minority Rights Group (2011) skriver att mandéer sedan 2003 har utsatts för påtryckningar att konvertera till islam. Även tvångskonverteringar uppges ha förekommit.

Mandaean commentators told MRG that a total of 11 women from their community have reported being raped since 2003 but 'others have kept it within the family for fear of being stigmatized'. They said that 33 women and girls have been forced to convert to Islam. (s. 24)

[...]

Sabean-Mandaean women have reported being pressured to convert to Islam; they also report physical and verbal abuse on the street from university staff, or, if in employment, for not covering their heads and not adhering to an Islamic dress code. (s. 25)

De kurdiska områdena (Kurdistan Region of Iraq) uppges vara liberala gentemot religiösa minoriteter. Mandéer anses kunna leva i säkerhet där. (Schweiz. Bundesamt für Migration (BFM) & Finland. Immigration Service 2011)

## 8.2. Regional overview

Interviewed sources confirmed that the KRG is open and liberal toward religious minorities and normally also toward ethnic minorities. The areas controlled by the KRG can be considered safe for minorities. In the Iraqi Kurdish areas, a majority of Kurds live close to minorities such as Christians, Arabs, Turkmen, Yazidis, Fayli Kurds, Shabak, Kakai, and Mandaean / Sabaeans. (s. 49)

Human Rights Watch (2011):

Sheikh Sattar [en mandéisk ledare i Bagdad] said that some militant imams “have issued fatwas [religious edicts] against us, calling us infidels and people not of the book. These fatwas have encouraged extremists to target us for killings, forced conversions, kidnappings, and arbitrary taxes.”<sup>293</sup> Although some imams have issued positive fatwas, Sattar said that members of his community face discrimination and hostility because of Muslim misconceptions about their religion. (s. 68)

Religion/religionsfrihet behandlas i konstitutionen. Mandéer och ett par andra minoritetsgrupper tas upp specifikt i lagtexten. (Schweiz. Bundesamt für Migration (BFM) & Finland. Immigration Service 2011):

#### 8.1. Legal framework

According to Article 2, paragraph 1 of the 2005 Iraqi Constitution, Islam is the official religion of the Iraqi State and the main source of legislation. According to Article 2, paragraph 2, Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean / Sabaeans are guaranteed full rights to freedom of religious belief and practice alongside Muslims. According to Article 41, “Iraqis are free in their commitment to their personal status according to their religions”; and Article 43 guarantees the freedom of practice of religious rites to the followers of all religions and sects. Paragraph 2 states: “The State shall guarantee freedom of worship and the protection of places of worship.”<sup>187</sup> Yet Article 2 also adds that no law may be enacted that contradicts the established provisions of Islam. Proselytization is forbidden for non-Muslim groups.<sup>188</sup> According to Iraqi law, conversion is not an element of offense. Non-Muslims are allowed to convert to Islam.<sup>189</sup> But Muslims are still subordinated to sharia, which forbids apostasy. (s. 49)

US Department of State (2010):

During the reporting period, Sabean-Mandaean leaders reported that their community continued to be the target of violent attacks, although with less frequency than in the previous reporting period. In addition to being pressured to convert, they reported kidnappings with victims often held for ransom. In some cases ransom was paid; however, among those cases a few victims were released, while others were killed or remained missing. Women were also pressured to wear the hijab and to marry non-Sabean-Mandaean men. Sabean-Madaeans reported that their gold and jewelry stores, representing

their traditional occupation, have been burglarized and robbed. (s. 13)

### Konsulterade källor

Sökning har gjorts i följande databaser och söktjänster:

Lifos

Ecoi.net<sup>1</sup>

Refworld<sup>2</sup>

Dow Jones Factiva<sup>3</sup>

Google

---

---

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestrida/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

### Källförteckning

Human Rights Watch, *At a Crossroads. Human Rights in Iraq Eight Years after the US-Led Invasion*, februari 2011

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iraq0211W.pdf>

(Hämtad 2012-09-03)

Migrationsverket & Landinfo, *Basra. Rapport från svenska Migrationsverkets och norska Landinfos utredningsresa till Basra, södra Irak*, 15 - 20 oktober 2011. Rapporten publicerades 2012-07-03. Lifos 27895

Migrationsverket & Landinfo, *Delrapport från utredningsresa till Irak - oktober/november 2010. Utsatta grupper - mandéer, yezidier, kvinnor, homosexuella och irakier som arbetat för amerikanerna*, 2011-01-14. Lifos 24427

Minority Rights Group International, *Iraq's Minorities: Participation in Public Life*, 2011

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ecoi.net/about>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dowjones.com/factiva/index.asp>

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4ed612bc2.html>

(Hämtad 2012-09-03)

Schweiz. Bundesamt für Migration (BFM) & Finland. Immigration Service,  
*Report on Joint Finnish-Swiss Fact-Finding Mission to Amman and the  
Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) Area, May 10-22, 2011*

[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/90\\_1329398573\\_2012-02-01-iraq-report-on-joint-finnish-swiss-fact-finding-mission.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/90_1329398573_2012-02-01-iraq-report-on-joint-finnish-swiss-fact-finding-mission.pdf)

(Hämtad 2012-09-04)

US Department of State, *2010 International Religious Freedom Report -  
Iraq*, 2010-11-17

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/171735.pdf>

(Hämtad 2012-09-03)

US Department of State, *2011 International Religious Freedom Report.  
Iraq*, 2012-07-30

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/193097.pdf>

(Hämtad 2012-09-03)

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, USCIRF,  
*Annual Report 2012 - Countries of Particular Concern: Iraq*, 2012-03-20

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4f71a67526.html>

(Hämtad 2012-09-03)