

Conception of Human Security in Iraq

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Abstract

The insecurities in Iraq, in terms of threats and dangers, are having a massive negative impact on the country; the greatest and gravest danger to human security and peace in Iraq is no longer the military threat from rival powers, but it can be discussed from the perspective of the transnational threats emanating from the world's most poorly ruled countries. It is said that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham group (ISIS) have made a profound effect on human security, where people feel threatened with these uncivilized acts recently. This paper discusses the emergence of ISIS and its threats to human security in Iraq. It argues that ISIS threatens human security in Iraq. Using qualitative methods, this paper examines the threats of ISIS on human security in Iraq from both community, political, economic, food, health, environmental, and personal security perspectives. Consequently, this study suggests policymakers to continuously monitor all human security dimensions in Iraq and to strengthen cooperation with the world and regional powers to formulate and execute effective strategies to get rid of ISIS in Iraq. It is also suggested that there should be some improvisation in terms of situation for human security in Iraq.

Keywords: Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/Levant (ISIS/ISIL); Threats; Human Security; Peace & security; Iraq.

INTRODUCTION

It is no longer a debatable issue that the greatest and gravest danger to human security and peace in Iraq is not the military threat from competing groups of great powers, but the threats from the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham Group (ISIS) who have made their presence felt by creating fear and causing insecurities to human in Iraq. This terrorist organization has used political, military, and terrorist tactics to impose its worldwide view of Islam extremism by force on both Muslims and non-Muslims in the region. ISIS is an acronym which stands for "The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria"; it is also termed "The Islamic State (IS)", The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)", The Islamic State of Iraq

and Sham (ISIS)" and finally "as *Daesh* (داعش)" in the Arabic context. ISIS is a terrorist organization who uses political and military tactics and power to impose a worldwide view of Islam by force on non-Muslims. The Islamic State was initially a part of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization, but it was expelled by the parent organization for being too extreme on its policies and interpretation of Islam. ISIS portrayed itself as the legitimate ruler of all Muslims around the world. The New York Times 2014 stated that Fallujah was declared an Islamic State and it controls large areas of Iraq and Syria (Islamic State group: Crisis in seven charts., n.d.). Furthermore, it established an Islamic Caliphate on June 29th, 2014 with Abu Bakr

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Al Baghdadi as the supreme leader (Bunzel, 2015). ISIS is indeed a vicious terrorist movement which successfully occupied substantial territories in Iraq and Syria. In Iraq, it has controlled several cities and governed the Eastern and Northern territories. Their threats did not stop at the Eastern and Northern borders but went all the way to the outskirts areas of the Capital of Baghdad. Today, they are on the borders of the Kurdistan region.

This study argues that the actions and atrocities of ISIS in establishing its caliphate have threatened all dimensions of human security. ISIS's members are groups of interns, murderers, mercenaries, terrorists, and deceived people who could not absorb the true meaning of religion and the true spirit of Islam. ISIS has been proven to adopt the approach of killing and terror in liquidating its opposition, as well as systematic killing and expelling which have become their strategy in dealing with all sects of the Iraqi people - Sunni, Shia, Christians, and Yazidi (Republic of Iraq -- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2015) who oppose to their rules. In addition, they have resorted to the systematic oppression of the minorities (Celso, 2015), destroyed their cultural heritage and landmarks of ancient Iraq which have before now enjoyed the religious sanctity in Islam and Christianity. Such landmarks destroyed by ISIS include the graves of Prophets Yonus (or Jonah in Christianity), Sheeth, and Danial (or Daniel in Christianity).

HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT

Human security has become one of the most debated issues of the 21st century even though it is yet to be defined accurately as the term "human security". In the context of International Relations literature, human security can be defined in various ways; "as a

starting point for analysis, either as a new concept or theory, a world's point of view, a debatable political agenda, or as a standard policy framework". Although its definition remains debatable, human security has raised many topics, where it is said that there is a consensus among its advocates, where a diversion of attention from a state-centered approach has raised lots of concern among people, and where the security borders should take care of the welfare of the public who are residing within these borders. The term "security" is usually discussed as the absence of threats; nonetheless, the word "secure" is a condition of not being threatened, especially physically, psychologically, emotionally or financially, where other elements are basically free from violence, death, and want (for employment, food, and health). Human security, therefore, deals with the capacity of identifying all threats to mankind and to have a good solution to abstain these problems and mitigate the negative effects of their occurrence. This statement clearly explains the assistance extended to victims who are coping with the consequences of widespread insecurities resulting from human violence, armed conflicts, as well as those facing massive underdevelopment. The term "security" in a broader aspect can be said to encompass two ideas: one is the notion of safety which explains more on physical threats in the traditional sense, and the other idea is that citizens' livelihood, in terms of their existence, should be guaranteed through "social security" (Tadjbakhsh S. , Human Security: Concepts and Implications, 2005).

In 1994, the publication of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) titled "The Human Development Report" (HDR) drew much attention globally towards the concept of human security, especially its influence on Social Development in

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Copenhagen (Sity D, Zarina Othman, Rashila R, 2015). The definition of human security from the 1994 Human Development Report implies that international security should be extended beyond the traditional terms of security which focuses on the security of the people, including the economic, food, personal, community, health, environment, and political securities (United Nations Development Program, 1994).

METHODOLOGY

To address the objective of this study, the study used a qualitative research methodology by relying on secondary sources of information concerning ISIS and its threats to human security. The researchers collected data from secondary sources and references such as books, previous researches, and analytical studies. These resources were directly or indirectly related to the subject of this study, particularly on the emergence of ISIS in Iraq and how ISIS threatens human security in its seven dimensions. The study used thematic analysis to iteratively re-organize the data. In the thematic content analysis approach, the researcher identified the recurring issues to refine and, in other cases, develop new themes in compliance with the objectives of this study (Taylor, 1998). The themes used in this study were the UNDP's

dimensions of human security. Another technique used for data interpretation and preparation was pattern building which was applied frequently on the extracted data from the questionnaires. Through literature reviews, the researcher observed the need to thoroughly study ISIS and its threats to security.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

It is not debatable that human security in Iraq worsened since 2003 when the United States invaded the country but failed to facilitate the formation of strong democratic government institutions in the country. The discriminatory and bias policies of former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (2006 – 2014) have become worse as the situation has hindered efforts to forge ties among the populace in Iraq (Ganji, 2016). However, it is the atrocities of ISIS in its strategy in occupying substantial areas in Iraq that have transformed human security in Iraq into a major crisis. The human security crises in Iraq are described thematically in the following paragraphs in a detailed manner focusing on each of the seven dimensions from the 1994 Human Development Report depicted in Figure 1 (United Nations Development Program, 1994).

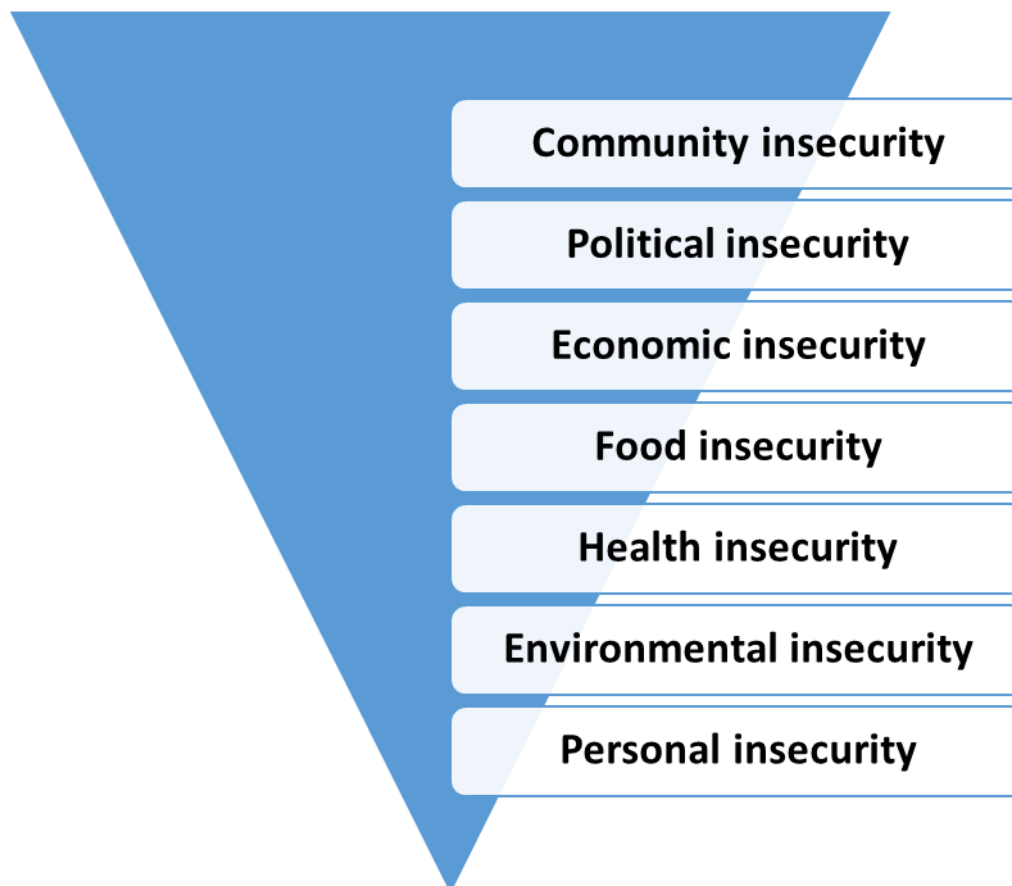


Fig. 1. The seven dimensions of security adapted from the 1994 Human Development Report

Community security is the first dimension of Iraqi security issue according to the 1994 UNDP report which argued that community security must be protected because most people affiliate and derive some kinds of community security once they become members of a group, family, community, or organization. Such groups also offer practical and moral support. The extended family system, for instance, provides protection to its weaker members, and many tribal societies work under the principle that households are entitled to enough land to support their family (United Nations Development Program, 1994).

According to Amnesty International (AI), ISIL is implicated in the ethnic cleansing of religious and ethnic minority groups in northern Iraq, putting the whole communities

at the brink of extinction from the Iraqi map. In the areas under their control, ISIL compels people to live based on their interpretation of sharia law (Nabih, 2014). The group has been reported severally to use death threats, mutilation, and torture to force people to convert to Islam; even Sunni clerics are being killed for their refusal to pledge allegiance to the so-called "Islamic State". Particularly, the targets of ISIL's violence are the Shia Muslims, Alawites, Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac and Armenian Christians, Yazidis, Druze, Shabaks, and Mandeans (Abi-Habib, 2014). They are the major groups killed by ISIL during their reign of terror. According to the UN, ISIL killed about 5,000 Yazidis during its effort to take over the control of some areas of northern Iraq in August 2014 (Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Iraq, 2014).

The recent gains by ISIS in Iraq have made the country a difficult place to live for the minority groups such as the Christians, the Yazidi, the Shabak, and so on. The UN estimates that at least 3 million Iraqis, mostly from the minority groups, have been internally displaced in the course of the recent fighting. Consequently, they lost homes, businesses, jobs, secure sources of education, medical services, and sometimes lack food to cater to people.

As per Iraqi security officials, there are four options for Christians living in ISIL-controlled areas – conversion to Islam, paying *jizya* (a religious levy), fleeing the "Caliphate", or death. "We give them 3 options: Islam, the *dhimma* contract which involves payment of *jizya*, or the sword (should they refuse these options)" (Jadallah, 2015).

In August 2014, ISIS attacked, killed the Yazidi male members, and took thousands of Yazidi women and children as sex slaves in their aim to eliminate the Kurdish-speaking minority just because of their faith. ISIS views the Yazidis as scarcely human because their faith combines elements of Islam, Christianity, and an ancient Persian religion Zoroastrianism (Fox News World, 2016). Thus, it can be concluded that ISIS has damaged group security and additionally the privilege of self-assurance. Individuals are burdened by a typical religion, culture, or dialect when living in a place; be it Yazidis, Iraqis, Christians, Shia Muslims, all have the opportunity of affiliation and discourse. Nonetheless, ISIS presents a danger to community security in Iraq as it unhesitatingly dislodges and slaughters individuals based on their ethnicity, culture, religion, and social and political alliance (ALLAM, 2015).

Political security is the second dimension in the 1994 UNDP's concept of

human security that relates to the basic human rights of an individual. According to a survey conducted by AI, citizens in 110 countries are still suffering from political repression, systematic political torture, ill-treatment, or disappearance because of political reasons. In addition, human rights violations usually occur during periods of political unrest (United Nations Development Program, 1994). People residing in ISIS-controlled areas are prone to political insecurity. They do not have another political choice but to support ISIS. They would be punished severely if ISIS officers found them thinking, talking, or acting against ISIS. This grievance thus appears to be political.

A UN report of 19 January 2016 described the methods used by IS to kill and abduct people who oppose their ideology, people affiliated with the government, professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and journalists, as well as tribal and religious leaders. About half of the deaths took place in Baghdad. The report, which was based largely on the testimony of victims, survivors, and witnesses, described how IS made "gruesome public spectacles" out of its killings in the form of "shooting, beheading, burning alive, bulldozing, and throwing off buildings" (Wells, 2016). Much has changed after two years of brutal rule by ISIS, says Ramadan, a Mosul native who describes the city now as a "giant prison" that provides no freedom for communication. It is quite tough to contact someone residing in Mosul because they are deprived of internet at home or in public. In ISIS-occupied area, no one is allowed to voice their opinion or protest against them (Hawramy, Mohamed, & Shaleem, 2015).

ISIS directly opposes democracy because they see this political ideology as a Western idea; thus, it is considered un-Islamic and against conservative Islam teaching. ISIS

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aims to establish an Islamic theocratic Caliphate (Lewis, 2014). After the June 2014 military victories in some substantial northern parts of Iraq and Syria, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the formation of an Islamic Caliphate at the beginning of the month of Ramadan and appeared to meet people in person as a religious leader and statesman at a mosque in Mosul (Caris, 2014). The ISIS media, Dabiq described the ISIS grand strategy and cruelty as predicated upon military force to create and develop physical control before political and religious authorities are attained (Islamic State Launches, 2014).

Economic security is the third dimension in the 1994 UNDP's concept of human security (United Nations Development Program, 1994). The 1994 Human Development Report defines that, to be economically secured, one should be assured of his income either from any kind of productive and remunerative work or from some publicly-financed safety net, and also have the ability to provide steady growth in terms of living standards from other economic entities such as a country. For most developing countries, economic security usually means the ability to execute national development plans in order to provide stable growth in the standards of living while maintaining economic independence (Akpeninor, 2012). Thus, economic security is a nation-state's ability to follow its choice of policies to ensure national economic independence from foreign powers (Rupert, 2007).

It should be noted that the economic structure of Iraq always relied on oil, which comprises about 95% of foreign income (Sanford, 2003). It is estimated that Iraq has 143 billion barrels of oil reserves; thus, it is well-known as the fifth largest in the world

and also the third highest in the Middle East after Iran and Saudi Arabia. Consequently, oil production and the world market oil price drive the economy of Iraq due to its high degree of oil dependency. Iraq was faced with double crises in 2014 - the ISIS insurgency and the decline in oil price. When ISIS emerged in 2014, it moved quickly to capture the oil-rich region in Nineveh to generate income for funding the newly born Islamic State. These two issues seriously impacted Iraq's economy and compounded structural vulnerabilities. Both crises, accompanied by political instability in 2014, decelerated the private sector consumption and all investment into the country. It also placed restrictions on government spending, mainly on projects related to investments. As a result, the estimation of non-oil sectors contracted by 9% in 2015, followed by 8.8% decrease in 2014 (The World Bank, 2016). The growth in the oil sector has remained strong with an output increase of 12.9% in 2015 to as high as 3.5 million barrels per day. This is fully supported by the Southern oil fields which are way beyond the reach of ISIS and have proven to give a strong production of 90% in total account.

The sharp decline in Iraqi economy resulted in two crises - a sharp decrease in the Iraq's GDP from USD 232.50 billion in 2013 to USD 223.51 billion in 2014 (furthered to USD 168.61 billion in 2015) (The World Bank, 2016), as well as a sharp decrease of both fiscal and external accounts which escalated the poverty level. The fiscal deficit widened to 14.5% in 2015 because of reduced oil revenue and higher humanitarian and security expenditure. The immense fiscal deficit has been financed by external foreign-sourced loans, which include loans from the IMF and the World Bank. The widening of current account deficit to 6.6% of GDP in

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2015 was due to the two crisis which reflected in export earnings of 47.3% in 2015.

The rise of ISIS has clearly made economic security crises in Iraq much worse. After the occupation of several Iraqi regions by ISIS, the poverty rate reached a level of 22.5% in 2014. In the Iraqi governorates under ISIS occupation, the impact of ISIS activities on the economy, social, and security interference doubled the poverty rates to 41.2%, resulting to almost half a million Iraqi people being in dire state in 2014 (The World Bank, 2016). In addition, ISIS created a situation where Iraqi children have to work as primary income earners in order to provide food for their family or to simply survive. Millions of refugees fled the conflict zone with little or no cloth (Nader, 2014). The conflict has made millions of families lost their source of livelihood and income and humanitarian aids provided by humanitarian organizations is surely inadequate. The refugees then work as cheap laborers in farms and shops or as beggars on the streets while some are being used as forced labors. Children are the worst victims as they are forced to work for extremely low wages in order to support the family expenses. Some refugees, especially girls, are forced into premature marriages by their parents in order to get economic or physical protection in the country in which they reside (Sami Halabi, 2014).

Food security is the fourth dimension in the 1994 UNDP's concept of human security (United Nations Development Program, 1994).The supply of food is threatened when individuals are unable to get access to it. Throughout history, concern over food has become one of the biggest issues. It is said that people should, at all times, have access to basic food as it is a basic necessity in life. The World Health Organization (WHO) argues that the issue is not about food

availability, but poor distribution and lack of purchasing power (World Health Organization, 2014). The import of food commodities Food security in Iraq has actually improved since 2004 because the American brought an end to sanctions and resumed open relations between Iraq and the world. Historically, the barriers in International Trade made Iraq vulnerable and led to war and sanctions. This eventually obstructed oil export and food import. These also created a negative impact on Iraqi agriculture sector as it became conventional and not able develop, resulting in food deprivation to many people. During the sectarian violence in the last decade, there was improvement in food supply compared to the years under sanctions. However, with the rise of ISIS most of fertile farms are destroyed.

It is obvious that ISIS has created lots of insecurities in many parts of Iraq. The rise of ISIS has threatened the availability and sustainability of food supply after they have taken control of a substantial portion of the country. ISIS attacks clearly destroyed most of the farms in the fertile regions in Iraq; they also seized agricultural land from the farmers. Most of the hospitals in Iraq received mostly malnourished children. The combination of malnutrition and mineral deficiencies (hidden hunger) ushered in widespread fear of generational threats of irreversible nutritional damage (UNICEF, 2014).

From the supply side, ISIS's brutal military campaign disrupted food production in Iraq. The violence created by ISIS caused the destruction of farmlands, livestock, and displaced farmers, thereby depriving the people access to food, meat, and vegetables which are necessary for their nutritional wellbeing. In August 2015, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) warned that Iraq has been facing food-security

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crisis due to labor shortages, disruption in logistics, and barriers in market access. Concern over this matter has been expressed; the war waged by ISIS has resulted in a negative impact on harvests, internal production, and all resource supplies (Thornton, 2015).

With the plummeting oil price, the government faced a budget deficit in excess of USD 20 billion – about a fifth of the budget outlay. The burden of the cost of war on the state budget also put farmers under pressure. All Iraqi wheat farmers normally sell their crops to the government at subsidized prices, which are about double the international market rate. However, due to heavy spending on the war against ISIS, there was a lack of budget for food. In 2014, it took seven months for the state to pay the farmers for the wheat (Bradley, 2015).

ISIS has also posed food security threats to Iraqi when they made huge destruction to Iraqi farming infrastructure. For example, the Mosul Dam of Northern Iraq was conquered and destroyed by ISIS in 2014 using explosives; subsequently, a large swath of farmlands was flooded throughout Iraq (Thornton, 2015). In April, ISIS opened a dam near the city of Fallujah and Anbar to flood the surrounding desert in an effort to halt the advance of Iraqi security forces. Consequently, water usage for wheat fields was restricted, resulting in a low harvest (Bradley, 2015).

From the demand side, the decrease in supply made food unaffordable to many Iraqis. In June 2015, the UNFAO warned that lack of security is making food access more difficult for the poor and displaced people — a problem that comes up with the rise in food prices. The food prices soared in three northern provinces dominated by the Islamic State — Anbar, Salahudeen, and Nineveh by

up to 58% compared to Baghdad (Bradley, 2015).

Health security is the fifth dimension in the 1994 UNDP's concept of human security. According to UNDP, health security is facing lots of threats, especially those people living in rural areas. The dire state of living has caused malnutrition and people have less access to clean water and are forced to live in unhygienic environments (United Nations Development Program, 1994). In the last few decades, various wars, intentional sanctions, and sectarian conflicts have caused healthcare facilities to deteriorate. After the US-led coalition invaded Iraq in 2003, the Iraqi Ministry of Health made strategies to improve health services through the re-orientation of the public sector towards primary health care, in addition to assigning larger roles to the private sector for hospital care. However, the evaluation of the post-2003 health policy showed that health plans have remained unsuccessful (Shabila, 2014).

The emergence and threat of ISIS have increased health insecurity in Iraq. The situation faced by the Iraqi in the areas under the control of ISIS is extremely bad; they are deprived of healthcare and are facing shortages in medicines, in addition to drinking and using contaminated water for their daily necessities. Diseases such as scabies, lice, and cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis are disseminating in the ISIS-occupied regions. The Deputy Director of the Iraqi Ministry of Public Health Department, Mohammed Jabr, has expressed his concern over this matter by saying; “There are also cases of diarrhea among internally displaced people due to the contamination of drinking water” (Fakhir, 2015).

ISIS conquered nearly one-third of Anbar province in Western Iraq on the towns and cities of Al Qa'im, Anah, Fallujah, Hit,

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Karma, Rawa, and Rutba since June 2014. The situation of Anbar province much better than in Mosul because Anbar Province has a dedicated health department and some operating hospitals. However, it was reported that the residents have faced many difficulties to obtain medicines and health services. It was also reported that measles and polio cases have risen because ISIS has blocked convoys carrying medicines and vaccines. The continuous destruction of hospitals in Iraq by ISIS has resulted in deterioration of the health sector in the country. In the ISIS stronghold Mosul, the condition of hospitals is deplorable due to the shortage of doctors and scarcity of drugs and anesthetics. It is also reported that ISIS has prioritized using all available drugs to first treat its wounded combatants, and consequently, forbidding the ordinary citizens from using the healthcare facilities.

Environmental security is the sixth dimension in the 1994 UNDPs concept towards human security because all people living on earth depend on one important element which is a healthy physical environment (United Nations Development Program, 1994). Environment security is connected to public safety as people should be free from threats caused by natural or human activities, ignorance, mismanagement and so forth. The main aim of environment security is to protect the people from short to long term devastations of nature, threats, and deterioration of the natural environment (Tadjbakhsh S. , 2007). The 1994 UNDP contends that environmental insecurity might result from lack of clean water resources, pressure on land such as deforestation, overgrazing, desalination, and poor land conservation, air pollution from industrialization, environment catastrophe from droughts and floods, cyclones, earthquake, as well as poverty that drive

people onto much more marginal territories (United Nations Development Program, 1994).

While Iraq is still suffering from the environmental impact of previous Gulf wars, contemporary conflict with ISIS has created new environmental problems in Iraq. Since the rise of ISIS in June 2014, violent battles have taken place in and around cities and industrial areas, affecting the already perilous environmental situation. A former CIA director Michael Morell on PBS's "Charlie Rose" stated that the concerns of the impact on the environment have prevented the United States from bombing oil wells that finance the ISIS activities in Iraq. Having learned lessons from the previous conflicts, the Iraq Ministry of Environment (MOE) tried to accelerate the remediation work to minimize air, soil and water pollution (Richardson, 2015). It is reported that heavy riots and fights in and around the Baiji oil refinery, as well as ISIS assaults on other industrial factories have released hazardous substances into the environment, causing soil and groundwater chemical contamination. Pollution is becoming a major issue and the Iraqi Ministry of environment (MOE) is working and creating a strategy to speed up the remediation work in order to minimize the impact of pollution to the residents and their environment (Zwijnenburg, 2015).

Personal security is the seventh dimension in the 1994 UNDP's concept of human security. Having personal security means the people are protected from physical violence regardless of physical torture by the state or foreign countries (war), from other groups of people, violent individuals and sub-state actors such as crime or street violence, from abuse from surrounding which would include rape, domestic violence. People are threatened by increasing crime rates (United

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Nations Development Program, 1994). Personal security is a general condition which occurs where necessary measures are taken in order to combat, deter, or delay the possibility of crime. The human development objective is basically connected with equity while human security is added as an important dimension of downturn with security (Tadjbakhsh S. , 2007).

Iraq was flooded lately with horrifying stories of the ISIS-led attacks both domestically and around the world (Barrow, 2015). ISIS propaganda and indoctrination can be seen in most places in Iraq. Inhumane or uncivilized acts during the execution of prisoners, such as beheading, hand chopping, and so on created outrage in most parts of other countries and also in a commonplace in Mosul where locals have been desensitized. ISIS also conducts regular public executions and lets corpses left hanging or “crucified” in the streets. This is surely conducted in order to terrorize the people in order to prevent them to go against ISIS. A UN report released on 19 January 2016 described that there are more than 18,000 civilians killed by ISIS in Iraq between 1 January 2014 and 31 October 2015. It is also estimated that 3,500 women and children are reported to be held as slaves and 3.2 million people were forced to flee their homes and displaced internally. In addition, women and children were subjected to sexual violence and sexual slavery (Wells, 2016).

The Islamic State has introduced some extremely barbaric methods to execute prisoners. The victims may be dissolved in acids, resulting in severe burns to the body. In Mosul, ISIS burnt alive their own fighters who were accused of fleeing the battle with Iraqi Army in Anbar province. ISIS also displays bodies of executed prisoners on the streets in order to deter other people from committing such acts. Another way is to allow hungry

dogs to maul fleeing ISIS commanders after tying them to a tree (Visser, 2016). ISIS imposed sweeping restrictions on freedom of speech and movements; women must wear Niqab or full-face veil in public or they face severe punishments. The movement of women is restricted as they fear being held captive by ISIS police, known as Hijab. The men also have a dress code which consists of loose attire and no beard shaving. In order to ascertain the obedience of the people, ISIS conducted regular inspections of the people (Hawramy, Mohamed, & Shaleem, 2015). ISIS also established “morality police”, aided by spies or informants. They patrol the street in their controlled territory to threaten, fine, and whip anyone considered breaking the ISIS self-interpreted Sharia law. Men may be punished for smoking and listening to music, as well as failing to ensure their female relatives are wearing the loose black coverings made compulsory by the militants.

CONCLUSION

Today, it is generally believed that the Islamic State in Iraq is a clear and present danger to human security in any place they exist. This paper has shown how the emergence of ISIS has threatened human security in Iraq. Firstly, ISIS has threatened the economic security of Iraq as well as the Iraqi people in the areas it has occupied. The war waged by ISIS and the atrocities they have committed has also threatened food security, resulting in malnutrition and mineral deficiencies among the affected people. ISIS also has destroyed many agriculture infrastructures that decreased the supply of food in Iraq. The war waged by ISIS has destroyed many healthcare facilities, denied access to medicine, and contaminated the water, resulting in many kinds of diseases. ISIS also prioritizes the use of healthcare

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facilities to their fighters, thus, denying care for the ordinary citizens. In terms of environmental security, ISIS has created many environmental disasters in Iraq as their activities have destroyed the environment. Personal security is non-existent in ISIS-controlled area because ISIS practices inhumane and uncivilized acts such as beheadings, hand chopping, and mass killing of people perceived to be against the self-styled Caliphate. Pertaining to community security, ISIS has obviously become a threat to the minority communities such as the Christians, the Yazidis, the Shabak, etc. Finally, there is no human rights and democracy in ISIS-controlled territories as it aims to establish a strict Islamic caliphate that forbids any different opinion or ideology against theirs. As a result, this report advises policymakers to keep a close eye on all aspects of human security in Iraq and to improve cooperation with world and regional powers in order to develop and implement successful plans to defeat ISIS. It is also proposed that some improvisation be made in terms of the circumstances in Iraq for human security.

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