



The Smoke Rain

The Second Report

Demonstrations of October 25 – December 1st in Iraq / Peace and Freedom Organization



Peace and Freedom Organization / Baghdad office (PFO-BAGHDAD)

**Sergio de Mello Team to Monitor the Condition of Human Rights and
Fundamental Freedoms in the Field (SDMT-PFO)**

The Smoke Rain

The Report on the Condition of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for the



Demonstrations of the Republic of Iraq, October 25- December 1st

Peace and Freedom Organization PFO / December 2019

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- ❖ Cover photo: Young protesters help an older man as he suffocates by smoke bombs.





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Vision:

A peaceful, democratic and diverse society that guarantees human rights and freedoms for all, promotes the values of social justice, citizenship and nonviolence and rejects extremism in all its forms.

Mission:

Peace and Freedom is a non-governmental, non-profit organization working at the level of the Republic of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region to monitor and protect the human rights condition, ensure peaceful coexistence by enhancing trust and cooperation between various components of society, supporting governmental and non-governmental institutions in developing policies that guarantee rights, freedoms and social justice in accordance with the international standards and officially registered at the official authorities in Baghdad and Erbil.

Programs:

Peace and Freedom has identified three main program areas where it will focus its work over the next four years:

The First program: Peace-building and Social Cohesion

The Peace-building and Social Cohesion Program aims to preserve the diversity in Iraq by building the capacities of individuals and key stakeholders to resolve the conflict and promote peace to ensure peaceful coexistence between societies with diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds and to ensure appropriate policies to ensure protection and the participation of all groups of society.

The Second program: Human Rights and Freedoms

The Rights and Freedoms program aims to promote human rights and shed light on violations of individual and collective rights and freedoms that occur throughout Iraq and ensure the development of appropriate government policies to protect and promote these rights and freedoms.

The Third program: The Transitional Justice Program

This program aims to contribute to preserving the dignity of individuals, recognizing violations, redressing the victims, and making efforts to prevent the recurrence of violations. In all programs, there are projects that guarantee the participation of (gender, youth and minorities) and are presented according to the principle of (transparency).

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Sergio de Mello Team to monitor the Condition of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Field
SDMT

The Sergio de Mello team is a group of female and male human rights defenders in the Republic of Iraq covering the entire geographical area in the country. Their mission focuses on observing and monitoring the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field. They form a group together with the electronic monitoring team of Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) Department for violations and breaches.

The team was established in June 2019 and was expanded, trained and well qualified in November 2019. The team believes in applying neutrality, credibility and transparency and works with a professional, accurate, clear and studied method that guided by international law in all its branches, respects and applies the law in force in the Republic of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, adheres to the internal system and code of conduct PFO. The team was named by this team in honor of and in remembrance of the UN envoy in Iraq, Mr. Sergio de Mello, who was killed in 2003 by the bombing of the United Nations premises in Iraq and is referred to as SDMT.

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The observer of Sergio de Mello's team to monitor the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field / SMDT-PFO

On October 28, 2019, it was raining in the sky of Al-Tahrir Square, it was roughly 2 p.m. The rain was accompanied by a violent attack by riot police on the demonstrators, during which dozens of tear smoke bombs with pepper spray were used, which formed more like a large cloud over Tahrir Square and he recounts reactions at the time as he listened to a protester saying: -

"The rain burns the faces.

**They got mixed with the smoke, they left us nothing.
They killed life and even poisoned the rain with their
smoke. "**

**"The testimony inspired the report writing committee to call this report the Smoke
Rain"**

Peace and Freedom Organization PFO

1-methodology

Peace and Freedom Organization PFO and its team, Sergio de Mello, to observe and monitor the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field, SDMT, indicates that this report is the second on existing demonstrations in the Republic of Iraq after it issued the first report titled "The Violence of Repression", which covered the first demonstrations from October 1 to October 9, so it is necessary that the stakeholders or interested parties to look at the first report to gain a broader understanding of the dynamics and drivers of the demonstrations and the events that accompanied them since its inception.

After the organization issued the first report and the organization's monitors carried out their duties to monitor the overall condition of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field and as a direct result of the basic information provided by the monitors to the main office on the context of committing violations and grave breaches of relevant domestic and international law related to the state of the demonstrations, the Peace and Freedom organization responded, in an immediate and urgent way, to the volume of the event, with a complete restructuring of the Monitoring, Control and Reporting Department, and writing the reports as part of the response plan included a wide transfer and distribution of powers to ensure the greatest possible flexibility and increase the number of the monitoring team as well as to be linked with a separate office to increase the coverage geographically to the area of events. Then, it completed its response with an immediate high-level training for everything related to freedom of expression, freedom to demonstrate and peaceful assembly and called the monitoring team the name of Sergio de Mello in remembrance of the international envoy of the United Nations who was killed in Iraq and a confirmation of the organization's believe and the team in the public international law and be guided by permanently and full respect for the domestic law of the Republic of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and their application.

Team monitors began field-gathering data and information, observing directly the general situation in the demonstrations since October 24, 2019 and so far, through field presence, covering at a general rate and at least three locations periodically in each of the following governorates (Basra - Najaf - Karbala - Dhi Qar - Maysan), while at least two locations were reached periodically in the governorates of (Al-Diwaniyah, Najaf, Wasit and Babil), and at least one observer covered the governorates of (Diyala - Anbar - Kirkuk - Muthanna - Nineveh) as well as due to the expected result of the intensity of the demonstrations in the capital, Baghdad, the organization depended on two monitors and 4 observers to cover these demonstrations.

The team did not lose sight of the electronic monitoring aspect of either the websites or the satellite stations for the purpose of verification or confirmation and follow-up of other matters related to the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, the report writing committee confirms that it did not adopt any anonymous or unknown electronic source or does not comply with the legal jurisdiction of the Republic of Iraq and for example mentioned are all the sites of governmental institutions affiliated with or working with the Iraqi government and the sites of the United Nations agencies, offices, branches and organs, especially the UNAMI mission, the Office of the High Commissioner and the High Commissioner / Geneva, international organizations, sober news agencies or civil society organizations.

The team brings continued contacting dozens of sturdy activists, journalists and actors in the field for the purpose of verification and to ensure comprehensive briefing of violations.

The Peace and Freedom Organization affirms that, as a result of poor material resources, it faced difficulties that could not be overlooked, which directly affected the ability of the team of observers and field monitors to cover the costs of safe monitoring of the human rights situation or costs





associated with other technologies such as means of protection. For instance, and not limited to, the organization was not able to provide protection equipment such as a helmet or chest⁽²⁾ shields to all monitors to reduce proven risks. However, monitors completed all missions assigned to them despite the fact that two monitors were directly targeted by smoke and sound bombs, they were taken to the hospital whilst most of them subjected to suffocation or temporary blindness or skin irritation as a result of exposure to tear gas or pepper spray provider and most of them were treated in the field.

Observers also faced a situation of accusations or mockery that observers lived with a feeling of humiliation by some demonstrators as a result of their loss of confidence in the ability of human rights institutions to defend them or as a result of their ignorance of the nature and extent of the ability of civil society organizations to defend them, while their accusation cannot be neglected and on a very small scale that they are agents or Intelligence spies of the Iraqi security services. For example, and not limited to, Sergio Dimilo's team observer was interrogated in Al-Rashid Street on November 2, 2019. Another observer was interrogated and detained in the Turkish restaurant on October 27, 2019, but in all cases, none of any of the monitors has recorded any physical or verbal abuse that show insult.

¹ To go back to the first report in Arabic language, load the link <https://ar.iraqicivilsociety.org/?p=6880>

² A full personal protection equipment against smoke bombs and shrapnel from exploding sound or rubber bombs is priced at \$ 550 at a minimum for each individual including an anti-fragment helmet and smoke bombs, an effective anti-gas and smoke mask, and a chest shield with a bulletproof alloy.

Limited areas such as Al Rashid Street, near the Al-Ahrar Bridge, Nasiriyah, Karbala, Amara, and Najaf witnessed a high-level threat to observers who were directly injured by smoke bombs, during which they passed through the highest levels of direct threat to life, as observers from Sergio de Mello team were directly hit by two smoke bombs in the chest and the other was sound bombs to his colleague in the upper leg in Baghdad, while others have experienced falling into the immediate danger cycle.

Peace and Freedom adopted a clear, precise and specific methodology with regard to the work of the monitors and their handling of the information through which the team of Sergio de Mello formed and tasked with monitoring and control operations. They were completely prevented and not taking part in the demonstrations, whether in negative or affirmative terms, and the need not to pass information based on any interpretations, expectations and analyses as well as the necessity commitment to complete impartiality among all parties, to investigate the truth, and to fix the violations and the breaches alike.³

As in the organization's first report on the aforementioned demonstrations, entitled **Repressing Harp**, the Sergio de Mello team adopted a specific and accurate strategy for collecting information based on field assessment and estimation of all actions that constitute violations or breaches, with the need to be guided by the principles of good and effective monitoring.

And once again, in order to complete the methodology of the organization's first report, the report writing committee indicates and confirms that this report does not, in any way, refer to an accurate number of recurrence of the of the cases of violations and breaches, but rather focuses accurately on the form and context of committing violations and breaches. Thus the information contained therein cannot be used as a guide for the number of victims as far as it is possible to identify the forms and types of violations committed and the means and tools used. The organization through the report writing committee has reached a conviction based on professional and objective grounds. The obtaining of the number of the victims is not possible for the monitors or through official or unofficial authorities, due to fully capture the geographical area, especially in light of the exaggeration or its opposite for the number of the victims, whether from the governmental side or the demonstrators.

In the same way, the organization's first report and this report will not suggest or adopt any figures indicating the number of victims, although certain numbers re available within geographical regions that have experienced certain security tensions on both sides, but numbers will be indicated in a narrow range, but the organization calls for it to be dealt with as indicators that it will represent the absolute minimum, whether for dead or injured victims, and in the same context, any number will be fully respected that circulated by relevant and concerned parties, provided that it is committed to neutrality.

In the context of developing the institutional work of the monitoring team, the Peace and Freedom Organization responded to proposals submitted by the team to amend the mechanisms of the team's work, especially with regard to the request of the observers to submit to maneuver⁴ to meet the need of some areas that witnessed high-level security tensions according to the requirements of each case.

In order to enhance the role of women and drive them with confidence to work directly in the field, the report writing committee asked and directed that a woman take over the field observation profile in Basra and Kirkuk



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governorates. The report writing committee also supported through the participation of an experienced woman observer in the report writing committee, especially with regard to preparing its structure and reviewing its content. The report-writing committee also indicates that all the information received from the members of its team, Sergio de Mello, indicated that security forces prevented them from carrying out their monitoring missions on their part, except of one case in which the riot police in Karbala Governorate responded to the team's observer accompanying them while carrying out their assigned tasks within one day. Consequently, everything that will be included in the report, except for Karbala, was monitored and documented in the field by the demonstrators.

This report introduces a new vision for the organization, which will include an introduction to all the information



gathered from the field through two presentation mechanisms based on a descriptive narration on a geographical basis to put the recipient in the context of committing violations and breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms and another presentation on an objective basis during which will present the most fundamental concerns of the situation of human rights and freedoms and it will focus on the mechanisms, means, and tactics used to commit the

context of violations and breaches.

³ All breaches and failure to adhere to domestic and international law by state officials will be indicated as violations. The breaches committed by the civilians among the demonstrators will be indicated as breaches guided by the standards of legal characterization contained in United Nations booklets.

⁴ A colloquial term means transferring observers from one place to another, as the monitors occupied more than one site.

The Peace and Freedom Organization, when submitting its second report on the demonstrations in Iraq for the period from October 24, 2019 to December 1, 2019 and referred to as "**Smoke Rain**", thanks all who contributed through advice and technical support from activists, defenders, human rights employees, media professionals, journalists, civil society organizations and demonstrators and the security forces, who facilitated, sometimes and on a very narrow scale, their work duties. The organization also highly respects and appreciates members of its team, Sergio de Mello, to observe and monitor the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field for their exceptional courage to fulfill the tasks and duties assigned to them.

2. Background

The exit of Iraqi citizens to the public fields to demand for their rights or express themselves and their demands is not a new event, as the country's history is full of gatherings and demonstrations. In the same manner, the policies of repression and government oppression of demonstrations is always the main choice to deal with and in the same context and because of it, many of the demonstrations that the country has witnessed since its independence it has eventually drifted into violence and has evolved to the level of internal armed conflict ⁵.

Despite the transformation of the political system in the Republic of Iraq after 2003 and the accompanying change of laws, the state of basic freedoms, especially the freedom to demonstrate and peaceful assembly, witnessed severe setbacks, including the demonstrations of Basra in June 2018 that were confronted by the Iraqi security forces using excessive, violent and deadly force which the general situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms can be described as undermined.

From here it is clear that the successive governments of the Republic of Iraq since the monarchy and through the Al-Qasimi and Al-Arfi era and the rule of the Ba'athists and until now, they have not adhered to the principles of respect, loyalty and performance, whether by the applicable local law or by the obligations imposed on Iraq.



According to the international law, violations or breaches committed against demonstrators, public and private property still exists to this day.

By returning to the most of the factors of these demonstrations, we find that the disappearance of the citizen's basic rights and freedoms in general, which are linked to financial deficiency, the low standard of living and the Iraqi citizen has lack of minimum levels of luxury and the procrastination of judicial investigations or injustice in trials that consider grievances which the Iraqi government must guarantee them, are always the prominent reasons for the emergence of demonstration movements in the country.

In this way, the demonstrations that started in October 2019 cannot be separated from the previous demonstrations, so the factors and the reasons are similar and they have become like the legacy that governments transfer from one era to another.

3. Introduction

On September 25, 2019, Iraqi citizens and activists on social media called for mass demonstrations on October 1, 2019 and explained their demands that they are because of the great deterioration of services, a sharp decline in the standard of living, the spread of unemployment and the descent of a large percentage of citizens or their approach to the poverty line, especially among Youth and the spread of administrative corruption in all joints of the state. The widespread demand for the demonstration sparked the violent disperse of high degree holders by security forces in front of the office of Prime Minister Adil Abdul Mahdi in Al-Alawi district, west of Baghdad by law enforcement officials, specifically riot police ⁶. It was followed by the decision of the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces to refer General Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, Commander of the Anti-Terrorism Agency to the Commanders Directorate, which the Iraqis considered an insult to a symbol of the elimination of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Sham the terrorist extremist – ISIS ⁷.

⁵ For example, and not limited to, see the Rashid Aali Al-Gailani coup of 1941, the demonstrations of the popular uprising of 1991 and the demonstrations of the Kurds in the 1970s and 1980s of the last century.

⁶ For more information, see the link: <http://www.nrttv.com/Ar/News.aspx?id=16658&MapID=2>

⁷ For more details see [Ultra Iraq](#).

Exactly on time, mass demonstrations began in the tens of thousands, by the afternoon of October 1, 2019, in Tahrir Square in Baghdad and many other areas in southern Iraq.

Hundreds of thousands rushed to the streets in several governorates, most notably Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Maysan, Basra, Najaf, Karbala, and Wasit, but it was soon encountered and with less than two hours since its launch in Baghdad using sound and smoke grenades, water tankers equipped with water guns, and the intensity of the crackdown of demonstrators using the illegal firearms and the use of excessive, disproportionate and unnecessary force resulting in deaths and injuries ⁸.

Then, it was announced that the demonstrations would stop on October 9 for reasons that the demonstrators found to be related to the visit of the shrine of Imam Al-Hussein, on the anniversary of his martyrdom ⁹, so many political, civil and social forces entered into swift dialogues with the international community focusing on the tension that resulted in the government side announcing a package of reforms that was not appropriate with level of the street anger, with the announcement to form an investigation committee to find out the grave violations committed against the demonstrators, especially the killing. Indeed, the committee announced its results on October 22, which included a clear and explicit mention of specific parties or names of those accused of the incidents of murder and repression, followed by the issuance of the report of the Office of Human Rights within the United Nations Mission, UNAMI on the demonstrations in Iraq on October 23, 2019, which touched several aspects of the demonstrations and altogether spoke about the condemnation of the killings. Once again, came back the calls for demonstrations and October 25, 2019 was selected as the date for demonstrations.

After collecting, reviewing and analyzing dozens of electronic materials by the electronic monitoring team of Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), supported by testimonies through field interviews conducted by Sergio de Mello SDMT team, the organization concluded that the tactic of provoking the public street is the activists use of social media, especially Facebook and Twitter, despite the systematic disconnect of Internet service and completely



blocking that applied to the electronic communication sites by the Iraqi government through the Communications Commission¹⁰. Programs to break the blocking followed by publishing video recordings of forensic medicine refrigerators and accompanied with them pictures of the killings that accompanied the previous demonstrations and promoted their speech to address kidnappings or forced

disappearances and documented their demands with the pictures and videos that show the use of sticks, clubs and firearms, but the use of specific videos especially a video clip for a mother kissing her dead son trying to wake him up as well as horrific scenes to kill protesters by snipers in cold blood and government neglect to deal with the situation as a result of a bad real assessment played a crucial role in provoking the public street and prompting it to demonstrate strongly on October 25, 2019.

According to the foregoing, the tragic events as a result of serious violations committed by law enforcement officials in Iraq against the demonstrators in Baghdad from October 1, 2019 led to the outbreak of conditions in many areas in the Republic of Iraq and slipped into demonstrations towards violence, which became the main driver of the demonstrations of the 25 October 2019, which is still going on at the time of writing this report.



4. Narration of the General Context of the Conduct of the Demonstrations from the Perspective of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Situation

1. Baghdad Governorate:

⁸ The UNAMI Human Rights Office estimated the number of death by 157 and 5,494 wounded in the period between October 1 and October 16, 2019. For more information: UNMIS report on protests in Iraq, October 23, 2019, p. 2.

⁹ One of the most important annual religious occasions that Iraqis commemorate in general, especially those who believe in the Shiite community's ideology, which is on 10th Muharram as Hijri calendar, followed by another commemoration complementing it on the 20th of Safar, called the Arba'een (fortieth). The demonstrators stopped the demonstrations to open the space for the commemoration of Safar the 20th.

¹⁰ The Iraqi Communications and Media Commission issued a statement explaining the disconnection of the Internet service, and then issued instructions explaining partial provision of Internet service, which is from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mass demonstrations in Tayaran Square near Tahrir Square in central Baghdad launched in Baghdad on October 24, 2019, specifically at 20:20 ¹¹ at night, , where during a few hours more than 3,000 demonstrators ¹² gathered. The observers documented during the observation a wide participation of families and demonstrators. Most of them of young people quickly rushed within hours to the nearby Tahrir Square where the first clashes to occur with the launching of sound and tear bombs, followed by hit-and-run operations between demonstrators and security forces until the early morning hours to witness on the morning of October 25, 2019, thousands came to Tahrir Square to demonstrate and at 8 a.m. Nearly 2,000 demonstrators controlled the Jumhuriyah bridge following the withdrawal of security forces to the Green Zone near the gate of Karada Mariam with having a force estimated by 150 security element to disperse the riot on the bridge opposite to the Turkish Restaurant without interfering the demonstrations.

Then, at 10:30 am, riot police and other unknown forces used rubber bullets, sound bombs, and smoke bombs and pushed the protesters away from the Green Gate to the middle of the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge. In turn, the protesters took control of the Turkish restaurant building.

War of Barriers

After the demonstrators took control of the Turkish restaurant on October 25, the security forces erected four concrete barriers on the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge, and in turn, the protesters formed a barrier opposite them using iron structures and began hit-and-run operations between the two parties using sound and tear bombs very intensively

horizontal and straight towards the bodies of the demonstrators and the demonstrators responded them mainly using stones and using Molotov cocktails in a smaller scale.

The skirmishes between the two parties continued violently, on the 25th, 26th and 27th, especially nearing Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge, and dozens of protesters were killed in the three days, while the number exceeded 3,000 casualties between serious injuries by smoke and sound bombs, and cases of suffocation, temporary blindness, and skin irritation that amounted by thousands.



Then, on the 28th, 29th, and 30th days, there was more calmness and more control by law enforcement personnel on fire sources. The number of injuries and deaths among the demonstrators decreased significantly, after the law enforcement personnel withdrew the riot force to the middle of the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge, accompanied by the progress of the demonstrators on both banks of the Tigris River nearby Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge. The demonstrators appeared to use laser lights, fireworks, Molotov cocktails, and glass balls in the quarries to respond to the Riot Force use of sound, thunderbolt and smoke bombs with pepper spray and rubber bullets.

On October 30, 2019, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran delivered a speech addressing the demonstrations in Iraq and Lebanon, in which he stated, "The biggest blow that the enemies can direct to any country is to take away security, which is what they started in some countries of the region. I recommend those who are keen on Iraq and Lebanon to treat the riots and insecurity that America, the Zionist entity, and some western countries cause in their countries, with the money of some reactionary countries"¹³.

The speech of the Supreme Leader in the Islamic Republic of Iran led to a state of popular anger, which the Iraqis considered an interference in internal affairs, especially the clear statement made by the religious endowment (Marjaia) in Najaf headed by the religious authority, Mr. Ali Sistani, where he came with his Friday speech issued in the city of Najaf saying "**No one, a group or an entity with a specific orientation or any regional or international party to confiscate the will of the Iraqis or impose their opinion on them**"¹⁴.

The general public rejection of the speech was quickly reflected on the demonstration grounds in general, and as a result of the speech, a group of demonstrators moved towards the Al-Sink Bridge, which is adjacent to the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge, with the aim of crossing to the other side to demonstrate in front of the Iranian embassy, which led to violent clashes between the two parties that fell in less than 3 hours more than 13 demonstrators killed, accompanied by dozens of wounded and severely suffocated people, temporary blindness. The demonstrators responded using the same method of Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge. The clashes ended with the blockage of the al-Sink Bridge and the erection of three concrete barriers.

¹¹ The report writing committee would like to point out that the local time for the city of Baghdad will be used in this report in a 24-hour pattern, which is 3 hours longer than GMT, and a slight difference in the number of minutes may not be significant for the times as a result of the critical conditions that the observers of the human rights situation lived during their fixation of time during observation.

¹² Estimates of the number of the demonstrators are subject to the estimation over the area they occupy, and these figures cannot be used as they are not accurate, except that the report writing committee adopted the minimum estimates.

¹³ For more information, see the Arabia CNN Agency and follow the link below:

<https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/article/2019/10/30/khameni-advise-iraq-lebanon-demonstrations>

¹⁴ For more information, see the link: <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2019/11/1/A>

On this site and date, Sergio de Mello team monitors recorded for the first time law enforcement officials' use of deadly firearms (live bullets) as they used multiple types of light and medium weapons and are directly responsible for the deaths of dozens and hundreds of wounded.



Groups of protesters moved to the nearby Al-Shuhada and Al-Ahrar Bridges and were able to cross the Al-Ahrar Bridge temporarily to the other side, and law enforcement forces soon forced them to retreat to the side of Rusafa to the streets of Al-Jumhuriyah and Al-Rashid near the bridges and expanded to reach Al-Khulani Square, Al-Wathba Square, and the alleys of Al-Shorja and Al-Maidan. i.e The area between Ma`rouf al-Rusafi Square bridge and Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge to cause widespread clashes, continues to the moment of writing this report.

During the ongoing demonstrations in the aforementioned areas by the Rusafa side, there were limited demonstrations in various regions and places on the part of Karkh that included Alnusur Square, Adan Square, Al-Masafi Street in Dora, the Husayniyah District, the link between Baghdad and the provinces of Diyala and Kirkuk, the Zafaraniya district and the Diyala Bridge south of the capital.

In the demonstrations, the active role of women emerged, as she participated as a demonstrator and as a paramedic. She occupied many locations, especially in providing logistical support at all levels to the demonstrators, where she led cleaning groups for different fields and advanced to the first lines in order to calm the demonstrators down. In return, despite the confused and fragile security situation, tens of thousands of young people were present in small area; however, no cases of harassment were reported to the observers or violation of human rights against the women.

In terms of providing medical assistance in the field, the level of medical assistance was an exceptional effort for the various bodies that provided it to the demonstrators.

As usual, the Iraqi government imposed curfew in the early days of the demonstrations, but it was only implemented on a small scale, as the check points of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Defense ignored orders issued to impose curfew in most areas of Baghdad.

Regarding the violations committed in connection with the demonstrations, Sergio de Mello's team monitors described the kidnappings or forced disappearances of activists, media activists, human rights defenders and demonstrators (by phenomenon) where the crime of kidnapping or enforced disappearance was committed against dozens. The same team recorded the release of a large number of them but did not disclose any information, they gave answers about the reason for their disappearance for days in the form of a (joke) and described themselves as heavy. Observers of the team in charge of monitoring, verification and validation believe that they were under pressure as someone passed an answer saying: **(My friend did not allow me to call and I was not allowed leaving the house but will remain my friend) !!!**

Journalists and media workers were subjected to direct and numerous injuries as a result of their coverage of the events, while others were beaten by demonstrators or law enforcement officials. The Iraqi Communications and Media Commission issued a decision to close 9 offices of Iraqi channels, which it said helped to spread hatred speech and fuel the situation, and the authority presented the argument to preserve the public order, security and public safety as an incentive to shut the channels down.

Although the right of freedom of opinion is guaranteed and freedom to demonstrate and peaceful assembly are in close contact to the right of freedom, Sergio de Mello's human rights monitors have documented for more than once, the detaining and interrogating demonstrators opposing the Sadrist Movement that is present intensively and whose personnel provide logistical services, including inspection. The team documented two cases of severe beatings against two, one of whom was accused of theft and the other by writing slogans against the Sadrist Movement. The worst information that needs additional investigation, verification and confirmation as a result of exceeding the legal framework for the work of the monitors is the incident of the fall of one of the demonstrators from the ninth floor of the Turkish restaurant on October 28, 2019. Sergio de Mello's team collected conflicting testimonies that are difficult to separate, where some claimed that it was forcibly thrown while others asserted that he committed suicide as a result of suffocation of tear gas. The overall information gathered tends to have been pushed from the top of the building, which was reinforced by the fact that on 28th day there was relative calm and law enforcement personnel retreated to the second barrier on the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge.

2. Dhi Qar Governorate

The PFO acknowledges and affirms that it has reached a conviction based on professional, objective, and logical foundations that the situation in the city of Nasiriyah in particular is thorny and highly complex due to the violent context in which the demonstrations take place and which is very close to the level of (Internal Disturbances). Therefore; talking about a comprehensive briefing including all details needs an effort that exceeds the effort of civil society organizations, where the organization finds that understanding the context clearly and surely needs the governmental effort and may call the international to support it technically by finding the full facts. Despite this challenge, the organization's observers in the Sergio de Mello team to observe and monitor the human rights situation and the fundamental freedoms in the field SDMT made extraordinary efforts that are dangerous while observing the demonstrations in the field, with the aim of providing this narrative briefing according to the information gathered where this was available and possible.

Nassiriya, the Center of Dhi Qar Province, witnessed the demonstrations in which tragic events erupted from October 25, 2019 to December 1, 2019, during which the most brutal violations were committed by law enforcement officials. The phenomenon of killing prevailed in more than one of the joints of the city, which was met by widespread destruction as a result of the violations committed by the demonstrators due to burning and destroying.



The events of Al-Nasiriyah city begin with the arrival of the demonstrators to Al-Haboubi Square in the downtown of Al-Nasiriyah on October 25, 2019, where the roads leading to it were cut along an extension to the old governorate building next to the intersection of Al-Hadharat Bridge. The demonstrations quickly expanded with a frightening escalation due to the excessive use of force against them by law enforcement officials. Hence, the demonstrators rushed

towards the official and semi-official buildings to control them and later burned them. The demonstrators burnt in their first wave, for example:

1. The Divan of Dhi Qar Governorate
2. Dhi Qar Provincial Council ¹⁵

The burning operations of the official and semi-official institutions were not free of accidents and clashes, as the attempt to burn the office of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq Movement in Nasiriyah witnessed an intense use of firearms by an armed force inside the office that led to the killing of a number of demonstrators, including a medical team ¹⁶, and wounding of the others.

On October 26 and 27, 2019, Iraqi security forces deployed in Nasiriyah District with a massive deployment, and imposed a comprehensive curfew, and prevented demonstrators from demonstrating outside Al-Haboubi Square, while the demonstrators continued to go to official and semi-official institutions with the aim of controlling and burning them, as they committed numerous violations by deliberately burning several buildings.

On the other hand, Al-Shatrah District witnessed, on October 25 to November 1, violent clashes and skirmishes between law enforcement officials and other forces, which were not exactly distinguished and between the demonstrators who wanted to burn the house of the Iraqi parliamentarian, Nasser Turki.

The demonstrators in Nasiriyah escalated the intensity of the demonstrations from November 3, 2019 to November 7, 2019, by closing all bridges in the city and most of the main streets, by the forced application of civil disobedience, where only the highway bridge was left available for use, while the daily closing time was from 6 to 9 o'clock Evening. Observers of the Sergio de Melo SDMT team met several demonstrators and informed them that the goal behind the roadblock was to prevent employees only from reaching their institutions and that the roadblock came because the



Iraqi government did not respond to their demands and confront them with the use of live bullets and caused a number of dead and wounds.

The situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms continued to deteriorate in the city of Nasiriyah. Then, the wave of demonstrations spread to Al-Rifai, Al-Gharaf and Suq Al-Shuyukh. Governmental, semi-official, and official buildings belonging to government figures were targeted for burning or control.

Most of the demonstrations were confronted by law enforcement officials using lethal and deadly force. Observers mentioned that the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms has reached the point of being undermined in some times of demonstrations as a result of the shooting with the aim of random killing by law enforcement elements, and in turn there was an absolute disregard for international and domestic law Performed by the demonstrators.

However, in general, the force was not used by law enforcement officials in an ascending and proportional manner, because the use of firearms, killing and wounding demonstrators was the dominant and predominant security tactic, and this was due to the throwing of untrained forces to deal with the movement of demonstrations, but not within their competences.



Indeed, the continuous collapse of the security condition, the state of general chaos, and the loss of control by Iraqi government institutions, even at decision levels in the city of Nasiriyah starting from November 21, 2019, led to more than 22 deaths with dozens of wounded and the burning of several buildings belonging to different bodies, including the Shiite Waqf Building and the Department of Tribal Affairs, the home of Representative Khaled al-Asadi and dozens of others.

¹⁵ See the tabulation of burning formal and informal institutions in the presentation on an objective basis within the report for the complete list.

¹⁶ See the tabulation for medical assistance in the presentation on an objective basis within the report

Then the demonstrators went towards escalation further, as they closed the road linking with Al-Gharraf oil field. On November 24-25, 2019, all the bridges were closed by the demonstrators through burning tires on both sides linking the Al-Jazeera side and the Shamiyah side (Zaytun Bridge, Al-Nasr Bridge, Al-Hadharat Bridge , service alternative bridge, Highway bridge).



The Iraqi government responded to the loss of control by forming a crisis cell and sent Lieutenant-General Jamil al-Shammari, a military officer in the Iraqi Ministry of Defense for the purpose of imposing security and law in the province, and issued an order to do so. At three in the morning on November 28, 2019, an Iraqi security force surprised the protestors

demonstrating on Zaytoun Bridge by intensive shooting and brutally. They regained control of the bridge within minutes after killing at least 8 demonstrators and wounding dozens of others, many of them critical, as a result of injuries to sensitive areas of the body, such as the chest, head, and abdomen, and as a result thousands of angry demonstrators rushed to the streets and attacked the City Special Task Force Regiment and burnt it completely.

The security situation continued to deteriorate further on November 28 and 29, 2019, as demonstrators continued to arrive in the Shamiya area to besiege the Police Command building. According to confirmed information, the number of victims for the two days reached 68 and hundreds were injured, including dozens, with live bullets as a result of the use of firearms that were verified and ascertained that their caliber arrived to 12:7 mm for heavy (unilateral) machine guns. The vicinity of the building, especially near the Al-Rayath Intersection, witnessed violent confrontations that led to the burning of 7 Iraqi police vehicles by the demonstrators who used stones and Molotov cocktails.

On the other hand, the collapse of the general security situation in the city was punctuated by the spread of militias belonging to clans, and in a limited manner in some areas of Dhi Qar Governorate, the Al-Azraj, Al-Butha and Al-Ghazzi tribes were identified, as some of the militants introduced themselves as belonging to these clans.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) refers to the staff of the nurses and doctors of Al-Haboubi Hospital located in Al-Haboubi Street near Al-Jumhuriyah Preparatory School as the heroes of the medical profession in Iraq where they performed their humanitarian duty and endured repression and prevented the arrest of the injured and wounded from inside the hospital among the demonstrators despite their direct exposure to the unlawful use of force by firing tear gas canisters towards them inside the hospital.

On the other hand, the Department of Health in Dhi Qar, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, 4 Syndicates, 3 volunteer teams, other parties related to social movements and civil society, provided medical, health and relief support to the demonstrators and the security forces if they needed them.

3. Basra Governorate

On October 25, 2019, Basra governorate witnessed mass demonstrations after demonstrators gathered in Al-Ma'aqal area near the government compound, specifically in front of the new governorate building in the early morning hours, but it quickly deviated from its peaceful path after tensions between riot police and protesters after 2 pm, which led to the use of tear gas, to keep them away from the governorate building, as clashes escalated between the two parties.



The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) concluded that the spread of a video clip which contains the process of run over the demonstrators with one of the wheels belongs to Basra Police Directorate is one of the most important drivers of the deviation of the demonstrations after October 25, 2019 that reached dangerous levels of violence from all sides according to the field monitoring data through its team Sergio de Mello SDMT and the electronic monitoring team.

The Peace and Freedom Organization asked the observers of Sergio de Mello's team in Basra to immediately start with the verification procedures and verify the circumstances of the accident. It was revealed through a group of

field testimonies that the driver of the wheel was subjected to a direct head injury by a stone thrown by some of the demonstrators as he passed near the demonstrations, which led to his loss of consciousness completely and his wheel ran out of control as this tragic accident further fueled the main street. It was accompanied by the lack of a real response to more than one of the joints of the local government in dealing with the effects of this incident in order to avoid the dangerous consequences it might have during the protest movements, and thus the demonstrations actually led to violence.

Violations and breaches committed during the Basra demonstrations varied between the killing of demonstrators and the use of unlawful, lethal, violent, and excessive illegal force, accompanied by campaigns of arbitrary arrest of protesters and the illegal detention of activists, human rights defenders, and others.

The events developed in Basra and led to the setting up of tents on October 29, for protesting by demonstrators in Al-Ma'aqil area near the Education Directorate, and it is still continuing at the moment of writing this report.

On the other hand, restrictions on movement and transport were in place by roadblocks, whether by law enforcement officials or demonstrators alike. Among the roads that were closed from October 25, 2019 to December 1, 2019, for example¹⁷, security forces in Basra blocked: -

1. The road leading to Abu Al-Khaseeb District, which was blocked by military.
2. Sa'ad Square road that leads to Al-Zubair District.
3. Block of Al-Zaitoun Street, which leads to Sa'ad Square and Al-Qibla neighborhood.

While the demonstrators blocked: -

1. Umm Qasr Port Road - Khor Al-Zubair Intersection, which leads to government departments in Khor Al-Zubair.
2. Abi Al-Khaseeb road leading to the Abi Al-Khaseeb Fertilizer Company, Al-Siba and Al-Faw.
3. The road to the port of Umm Qasr, where it was completely blocked by the demonstrators, but the riot police opened the road on November 2, 2019, which resulted in deaths and injuries as a result of the unlawful use of live fire and accompanied by excessive and disproportionate use of force while An Iraqi security force wheel was burned by the demonstrators.



In accordance to the overall violent situation prevailing in Basra, violations and breaches against journalists, activists and human rights defenders have taken a violent nature as well. The observers of the human rights situation and

field fundamental freedoms confirmed that both November 5 and 24, 2019 there were aggressions against journalists in the areas of Umm Qasir and Sumud Intersection ¹⁸.

And the accident of the loss of the activist Hussein Al-Nazzal on November 23, 2019 was confirmed and he was released after one day and Sheikh Haider Abdul-Amir Al-Maliki the activist in the demonstrations was killed in Abu Al-Khaseeb District, where he was killed in one of the city's markets.



In relation to the sit-ins, although they are still continuing, on November 5 at 23:30 violent skirmishes and clashes witnessed between protesters and a security force that burned tents after a group of protesters burned the outer fence and an observation tower for the Intelligence Directorate in Al-Ma'aqal area. Due to that, a number of protesters were also arrested, who confirmed through testimonies collected by the team, confirmed that all of the arrested names were innocent, as they were present in the square at the moment of burning the wall of the government establishment. Ultimately, the clashes led to the burning of the tents and more casualties of wounded and dead people.

4. Al-Najaf Governorate

In Najaf Governorate, the demonstrations started from October 25, 2019, and they maintained non-violently until November 25, 2019 and took a permanent headquarters from Sadrain Square, where sit-in tents were installed, and large segments of society participated in Najaf, especially students, unions, civil society organizations and political Movements such as The Sadrist Movement, with members of the Communist Party, in the forefront were the youth. The youth were the main and active driver of the city's demonstrations, during which many events were organized, such as free drawing, music, and cultural and social dialogue. The organization concluded that the reason behind this safe atmosphere is the permanent understandings and communication between the leaders of the Iraqi security forces and demonstrators to continue on one hand and, for the role of religious authority led by religious endowment Ali al-Sistani being based in Najaf as well as it's role in the demonstrations on the other hand.



¹⁷ For more information, see the tabulation related to the right of movement and transportation in the narration on an objective basis in this report.

¹⁸ For more information, see the special tabulation related to the general situation of human rights defenders and freedom of the press and media in the narration on an objective basis in this report.

Then, on October 25, 2019, the demonstrations escalated by following a new tactic through putting pressure on the Iraqi government, which was adopting a policy of civil disobedience. The Peace and Freedom monitors recorded the demonstrators blocking the main roads such as Abu-Sakhir Street, Al-Salam Intersection, and a number of main streets in the Bridges of Thawrat Al-Ashrin.

On the other hand, the observers recorded the arrest of a number of demonstrators who wanted to close the schools in order to enforce civil disobedience by Muslim Bin Aqeel Police Station in Kufa.

Then, on November 26, 2019, a soccer match for the Iraqi team coincided, where the shooting was carried out by the citizens and intensively in celebration of the victory, which called for the deployment of security forces in most of the streets of the province. Hence, the tensions developed to clashes using the stones by the citizens and demonstrators on the one hand and the security forces on the other hand who responded them with tear gas and sound bombs as they were limited and controlled.

On November 27, the demonstrators used other methods they followed. In the early hours of the morning, they blocked the streets using flaming tires, while others closed the schools by force. For example, but not exclusively, students of Kufa University, by forming a human barrier, closed the university gates to prevent professors and university staff entering the university.



On the evening of the same day, hundreds of demonstrators gathered in front of the Iranian consulate in the city, which quickly developed into violent clashes during which security forces used tear gas and sound bombs excessively, and then escalated their use of unlawful force by using live bullets, as they fell during these accelerating events, according to a medical officer source provided his information to the Sergio de Mello team monitors, there were nearly 100 casualties with various injuries, between temporary blindness, severe suffocation, and injuries by live bullets. The observers documented the spread of demonstrations from the vicinity of the Iranian consulate building to the military tunnel and at 21:20, some demonstrators managed to enter the Iranian consulate building and burn it completely.

On the other hand, at the same time, other violent confrontations broke out near the shrine of Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, where the demonstrators tried to burn the shrine using Molotov cocktails and were able to burn one of the gates and some of the internal rooms. The shrine guards responded the demonstrators using firearms and live bullets with the participation of some civilians defending the shrine and used different firearms that targeted the demonstrators directly.



On November 27 to November 29, Sergio de Mello SDMT team observers documented the killing of 47 demonstrators as a result of violent clashes around the Iranian consulate premises and the shrine of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, most of whom fell as a result of being shot in the chest and abdomen.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) notes that the context related to the events that occurred around the Iranian consulate premises and the shrine of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim was thorny and complex, according to the information received from its team to monitor the field due to the presence of more than one party played a fundamental role in the mentioned sites with the absence of a clear and specific vision.

On December 1, 2019, the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) issued clear and specific orders for the immediate withdrawal of the Sergio de Mello SMDT team monitors from the field in Najaf Governorate as a result of the use of firearms by some people within the demonstrators which they exchanged fire with the guards of the shrine, so the organization found that the situation is not guaranteed and there are minimum level of safety and security for the monitors.

5. Maysan Governorate

Demonstrations took place in Maysan governorate on October 25, 2019, and thousands of demonstrators gathered near the Maysan governorate building. The roads leading to the square were blocked in order to secure the demonstrators there and it's a street leading to Al-Saddah Bridge, Al-Rifi Ni'ama Street, and the secondary road to the governorate's bridge. However, some of the protesters quickly tended to impose control of official and semi-official buildings while setting fire to offices of the Popular Mobilization.



The demonstrations in Maysan governorate, since its early hours, recorded that some of the demonstrators turned towards burning buildings, and indeed, for example, but not exclusively, the offices of Al-Nujaba Movement, the Awfia Movement, Hezbollah Brigades, National Reform Party, the office of Badr Organization, the school of Sheikh Al-Yaqoubi, and others were burned ¹⁹.

The worst violations and breaches in the demonstrations of Nasiriyah were violent clashes around the office of the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq Movement ²⁰ in the sector near the Maysan police headquarters building, where hundreds of demonstrators gathered to try to burn down the movement's office



⁹ For more information, see the tabulation related to the burning of institutions and buildings in the narration on the objective basis in this report. Where the demonstrators began throwing stones, which prompted those present in the office led by the director of the office, which is called "Wissam Al-Olwi", to respond using firearms and live bullets, and the protesters responded using Molotov cocktails.

Sergio de Mello team monitors recorded the direct use of firearms by the office guards with the aim of killing or wounding, and documented the use of four individuals among the demonstrators the weapons type AK47 and at least one hand grenade against those present at the office, and after 18:00 the office was evacuated to enter a group of demonstrators to burning it completely.

The Report Writing Committee reviewed 3 videos that were published on the pages of social media sites and the electronic monitoring team confirmed their correctness in relation to time, place and content as well as compared them with the information provided by the Sergio de Mello team monitors in the field SDMT about the incident of the death of “Wissam Al-Alyawi and his brother”. On the other hand, after the evacuation of the office, the presence of the Chief of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq Movement at Al-Zahrawi Hospital to receive the initial treatment as a result of severe injuries and then he is transferred to Al-Sadr Public Hospital. In Al-Sadr Hospital, angry protesters get Al-Alyawi and his brother Essam off the ambulance and beat them brutally, and then they were shot using a pistol of 9 mm and a result of force majeure, a copy of the death certificate has not been obtained.

The clashes between the two parties around the office of the Asa’ib Ahl Al-Haq Movement resulted in the burning of the office and the killing of 9 protesters at minimum and 45 others wounded, while the director of the office and his brother were killed as a result of these clashes in another location as mentioned above.

Sergio de Mello team SDMT documented the weak response by the Iraqi Ministry of Health cadres in the incident of clashes around the Asaib Ahl Al-Haq Movement office. It was confirmed that all the injured and the dead were transported by civilian vehicles to hospitals, and it was also confirmed that the Maysan police leadership did not respond despite the length of the clashes around the office to try to decipher and isolate the two parties.

Maysan also witnessed another dangerous escalation by killing of the activist "Amjad Al-Dahamat" in the



demonstrations by unknown armed men on the night of November 6, 2019 who is the writer in the Arabic section of Rudaw Media Agency and human rights defender. On the other hand, the night of November 22, 2019 also witnessed a failed assassination attempt against the activist Jawad Al-Harishawi as he was shot.

6. Diwaniyah Governorate

Demonstrations began in the city of Diwaniyah on Friday, October 25, 2019 since the early morning hours and according to the information received by the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) through the observers of its team Sergio de Mello to monitor the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field SDMT, the demonstrations began normally and expressing the street. The demonstrators gathered near Al-Diwaniyah Provincial Council building, on the Governorate Bridge and Al-Sa'aa Square until four o'clock in the afternoon, where dozens of people gathered and carrying pictures of the dead of their relatives in the first demonstrations, which sparked the anger of the demonstrators and the congestion of the scene more. As a result of that, tensions and frictions occurred between them and the law enforcement officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, which eventually led to the demonstrators' attempt to drop the concrete blocks in front of the provincial council. Law enforcement officials responded to them using tear smoke and sound bombs, but the protesters managed to enter the provincial council and burn it completely.



Violence intensified and violent means were used in the clashes between the two parties as the protesters regularly used stones, Molotov cocktails and glass balls. The law enforcement officials responded with lethal and non-lethal firearms, which were mainly concentrated using a 7.62 mm firing weapon, sound bombs, and smoke bombs. The burning activities extended widely to official and semi-official institutions, which included, for example, the Governorate Council building, the house of the Speaker of the Council, Jabir Al-Jubouri, the house of Council member Faisal Al-Naili, the headquarters of the Dawa parties, Badr and Al-Hikma, the headquarters of Saraya al-Khorasani and 2 headquarters of Asaib Ahl Al-Haq.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), through analyzing the information received from the electronic



monitoring teams and the Sergio de Mello SDMT team, concluded that the guards of the house of MP Faisal Al-Na'eli used the unlawful force as they shot the demonstrators aiming at direct killing, even in the moments when the danger was not described as serious. As a result of this violent use of force, a number of people were killed and injured, so the events associated with this context ended with the burning of the house of the aforementioned deputy.

²⁰ A political movement that possesses a military wing with legal status within the Popular Mobilization Directorate and has a political movement allied with other parties in Al-Fateh Alliance and represented in the Iraqi Parliament and chaired by Sheikh Qais Al-Khaza'ali.

On the same date, the entry of demonstrators to headquarter of Badr Organization resulted in the death of 12 protesters, who were burned to death, as other demonstrators burned the building while the others were present.

On the other hand, the demonstrations and demonstrators blocked vital and strategic roads, including roads to Diwaniya, Hilla – Diwaniyah, Diwaniyah – Najaf and the Diwaniyah entrance to the southern governorates. Some days later a joint campaign was launched between the civil defense and the demonstrators to reopen the streets and clean them from the rubble and burning tires.

The demonstrations continued with the same momentum, but the volume of violence decreased until November 29, 2019, where observers of Sergio de Melo team SMDT confirmed that Diwaniya witnessed a state of public anger, affected by the scene in the province of Nasiriyah, where thousands of protesters stood at the Diwaniya - Najaf Bridge to wait for the coffins of the dead.



Tensions developed again, as hundreds of angry demonstrators on December 1, 2019 went towards Al-Modaraa neighborhood in Diwaniya and burned the house of Ahmed Jamil al-Shammari, son of the General Jamil al-Shammari, who held him responsible for the bloody events in Nasiriyah.

7. Karbala Governorate

In Karbala, the demonstrations started on October 25, 2019 and took from the Tarbiyah Turnstile a site for the open sit-in where the tents were erected and the square was prepared for the purpose of demonstrating. Then, at 20:00 at night a number of demonstrators exceeding 2000 persons protested near the Karbala governorate building and tried to enter the building and set a number of tires outside. The Riot Forces existed inside the building used water pumps from the water tanks and followed using tear gas and sound bombs. The demonstrators responded with stones, and skirmishes continued between the two parties around the building until October 26, 2019 at 14:00 pm.



The demonstrations continued within the area of Falkat al-Tarbiya with a random movement of protesters who formed somewhat small gatherings all over the city. At 23:00 from the same day, a group of protesters, estimated by hundreds, moved towards the back door of the governorate building and leading to the Al-Tasfirat building, where it witnessed violent clashes between protesters and security forces in its various combinations using lethal and deadly firearms widely such as 7.62mm x 39mm automatic rifles, 7.62mm x 54mm and 5.5mm bullets, and tear and sound smoke bombs. In return, the demonstrators used heavy stones and Molotov cocktails where the Sergio de Mello team monitors were able to confirm the injury of a number of security forces with burns and severe injuries and a number of dead and injuries among the demonstrators. The observers were unable to reach a rough number of casualties due to lack of the time factor in which these violent events took place on one hand and due to the orders issued by Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) that call for the withdrawal of monitors as a result of the situation in which it has lack of the minimum level of security and personal safety.

Violent clashes continued in multiple areas of Karbala from October 27, 2019 to November 1, 2019. For example, but not limited to the areas of the governorate's turnstile, Al-Baladiyah neighborhood, Al-Naqeeb neighborhood, and Kabab Muhammad road, and these events resulted in killing 3 protesters and wounding 82 as a minimum. The number of demonstrators who suffered from temporary blindness and suffocation hasn't been known.

Excessive use of force by law enforcement officials escalated on November 2, 2019, as a security force clashed with protesters in Falkat Al-Tarbiyah, and shortly between 22:30 and 23:30 at night, the protesters were driven out of the

yard and excessive and disproportionate force was used to beat dozens of them with batons and sticks and chase them through the alleys as well as they burned tents intended for the purpose of sit-in.

The violent events associated with November 2 led to a state of public anger that led to the gathering of thousands of demonstrators. Many of them went towards the Iranian consulate building in Al-Iskan neighborhood, where they threw stones at the building





and the security forces present there as well as they hit some of the security forces that are present there. Due to that, a masked force arrived and wearing black uniform and start shooting the demonstrators indiscriminately. The violent and direct shooting of the demonstrators led to kill 7 protesters and wounding 22 others at minimum and confirmed.

On November 5, 2019, at 23:00 pm, hundreds of protesters went again to the Iranian consulate building in the Iskan neighborhood carrying Molotov cocktails where they were able to enter the building, dropped the Iranian flag and raised the Iraqi flag instead of it without being attached and withdrew from the site after fully burning of the premises.

Violent clashes continued interruptedly from November 5 to November 22, 2019, when 90 detainees from the demonstrators were released by the Karbala Governorate Police Command.

On November 28, 2019, violent clashes broke out between demonstrators and security forces in Baladiyah neighborhood, using various types of deadly and non-deadly weapons by the security forces and resulted in the injury of 50 protesters with various injuries. The condition of some of them was critical. In return, Sergio de Mello's team was able for the first time to confirm the use of two hand grenades by individuals among the demonstrators against two groups of security forces elements that the shrapnel wounded 19 security personnel.

On the other hand, the governorate of Karbala witnessed the kidnapping, disappearance, and killing of a number of demonstrators, for example the kidnapping and torture of activist Hasan Al-Banna Al-Husayni, who was hospitalized in a critical health condition on November 23, 2019 as well as one of the demonstrators was found killed with knife stab and he was placed in the trunk of his car on October 22, 2019.

With regard to freedom of the press and media, journalists and media workers have lived in difficult moments as a result of fear or their experience of moments of direct assault, such as the assault of Al-Wefaq news channel cadres and hit them by the security forces with batons.

8. Wasit governorate

Information from Sergio de Mello SDMT team monitors to the Peace and Freedom Organization PFO from Wasit Governorate indicates that the demonstrations started on October 25, 2019 were preceded by an expanded meeting of security leaders and social leaders on October 24 to agree on a context which confirms that it is in the interest of the province Not being drawn into violence and that the security forces exercise the utmost restraint. Accordingly, the Peace and Freedom Organization finds through analysis of media and observational materials and the information received from its SDMT monitoring team that these understandings were the main and effective cause of non-slip into violence significantly, though the governorate witnessed in the early morning hours of the first day of the demonstration on October 25, 2019, burning more than 18 official and semi-official party buildings and headquarters. For instance, but not limited to, the headquarters of Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haq Movement, the Saraya Salam, the headquarters of Al-Hikma Movement, Al-Bina Alliance, al-Fateh Alliance, and the headquarters of most members of the Iraqi parliament, such as Kazem al-Sayyadi.



The situation was completely controlled once again at exactly ten o'clock in the night, as the demonstrations continued peacefully, with the exception of some minor tensions in the period between October 28 and November 28, 2019.

9. Babil Province

Demonstrations began in Babel governorate same like the other governorates on October 25, 2019. The demonstrators directly announced the open sit-in near to Al-Thawra Bridge in the center of Babel governorate in the city of Hilla. Due to the demonstrations, the Riot Force spread and the demonstrators responded with the burning of tires in the 60 meter street and blocked Al-Thawra Bridge and Batta Bridge that skirmishes took place between the two parties. At 19:00, a series of burning of party offices started by some demonstrators in Tayyara neighborhood, in the center of Hilla, and at 22:00 in Nader neighborhood in the city center of Hilla, a number of protesters around 300 at least, went towards the office of Badr Organization with the aim of burning the headquarter. The guards who assigned to protect the office used illegal force through firing live bullets at the demonstrators using 7.62 mm × 39 mm weapons and AK47 weapon resulted in wounding eight demonstrators, at least, and the killing of the demonstrator Nofal Hassan.



On the same night, a force of Riot Police elements attacked the city's protest square using tear gas and sound bombs to disperse the protesters in the square. The protesters responded

them by using stones and as a result of the excessive use of force by Riot force elements and violently as well as firing of smoke bombs horizontally towards the demonstrators bodies, 70 protesters were affected with various injuries as suffocation, direct injury and temporary blindness. During this demonstration, Sergio de Mello team observer SDMT reported that the number of ambulances that participated in the transfer of casualties to the city hospital were 13 ambulances, while the minimum number of the victims among the demonstrators reached 7 dead. Once again, the demonstrators gathered at Nadir neighborhood after handing over the headquarters of Badr Organization to the security forces, but the demonstrators finally managed to enter the office and burned it. At the same time, hundreds of demonstrators surrounded the office of Asaib Ahl Al-Haq in the nearby 40 meter Street which was closed and handed over to the security forces.

The general situation continued between October 28, 2019 and November 28, 2019 between elements of the Iraqi security forces and demonstrators in the same manner as blocking the streets and bridges as well as outspread frictions and skirmishes.

10. The governorates of Diyala, Kirkuk, Anbar, Nineveh, Salahuddin Al Muthanna

The western and northern governorates of the Republic of Iraq witnessed events closely related to the demonstrations between October 25, 2019 and December 1, 2019, where Sergio de Mello SDMT observers reported Peace and Freedom Organization PFO a series of events. For example, but not limited to, hundreds of citizens demonstrated in more than one location in Diyala Governorate and openly. The team recorded demonstrations near the Diyala Provincial Council building and the main road of Muqdadia District and the Muhammad Jawad al-Khalisi square in Khalis District, while the road between Diyala and Baghdad near the Jadeidat Al-Shat area was blocked more than once through burning tires. No clashes or violence were recorded during the demonstrations times. The security forces provided protection for the demonstrators, but the team's monitors reported that all the forces that participated in securing the demonstrations were forces of the federal police and other security forces such as the emergency and the local police.



In the Kirkuk governorate, after the outbreak of demonstrations and the wave of protests in the city of Baghdad and the rest of the Iraqi governorates, the Kirkuk governorate had several protest and solidarity stances to support the demonstrations of Baghdad. The first protesting stance was on October 26, 2019 at the headquarters of the Communist Party opposite Baghdad

Garage in the Baghdad Road area. It was a peaceful protest stance for two hours and there were no harassments by the security forces.

On October 28, 2019, the second protest was held at six o'clock in the exhibitions roundabout, Hay Al-Khadra neighborhood, and on October 29, 2019, students of the University of Kirkuk organized a solidarity protest at 10 am in the university building.

As of October 30, 2019, there were 3 protests in different places in Kirkuk: -

1. A protest organized by the Iraqi Artists Syndicate, Kirkuk branch, at nine in the morning at the Syndicate building, located: opposite to the Municipal Fuel Station, near the Kirkuk Provincial Department building.
2. A protest at 11:00 a.m. organized by students of the Faculty of Arts, Department of Information / University of Kirkuk.
3. A protest at ten o'clock in the morning, organized by students of the College of Veterinary Medicine and students of the College of Nursing

In Anbar Governorate, the situation differed a lot, as the security forces in the governorate adopted the method of arbitrary arrest and detention. They arrested the activist Samir Al-Faraj on October 27, 2019, and then tried to arrest the activist Muhammad Jassim, but it did not succeed, so his father was arrested in his place in order to obtain information about his location. Then the security forces in Anbar, on October 28, 2019, arrested the activist Abdullah Nazim, and at the same time, the activist Omar Adel and his activist wife, Abrar Al-Ani, were arrested and issued arrest orders against them, according to the information obtained by SDMT observers from those who were close to them.

After PFO reviewed information collected mainly by its electronic monitoring team, it was found that the security forces in Anbar province mainly relied on extensive monitoring of social media sites, as it appears that all the arrests carried out by law enforcement elements in the province, based mainly on the publications that activists place them, especially, in their private pages.

On the other hand, a state of public anger prevailed in Anbar openly, following the information received on 28 and 29 November 2019 from the provinces of Nasiriyah and Najaf, where it was ended with the organization of a protest for thousands of demonstrators in Fallujah, Rwmadi and Hiit Districts especially in universities and institutes, during which the demonstrators lit candles to mourn the lives of the victims of Nasiriyah and the demonstrations.



In the province of Nineveh, a protest was organized on the left side on December 1, 2019 and in the University of Mosul to denounce the repression in the governorate of Nasiriyah. On the other hand, according to the information that received by Peace and Freedom Organization, the Christians and Yezidis, especially among activists in Nineveh Plain, organized electronic campaigns to support the existing

demonstrations in many areas of the country. The Christian churches prayed in mourning for the souls of the martyrs. On the other hand, the Supreme Religious Authority of Yazidi Religion in Iraq and the world, Baba Sheikh, issued a statement condemning acts of repression and persecution against demonstrators, especially in Nasiriyah and other provinces.

In Salah al-Din governorate, students of Tikrit University demonstrated on December 1, 2019, to protest against the fall of dozens of victims in the south. On the other hand, dozens of people protested in Zowiya area in the governorate with a demonstration to show respect to the victims of the protests on the same date.

In Al-Muthanna Governorate, there had been many demonstrations during the period between October 25 and December 1, 2019, but all demonstrations did not witness any violations, breaches, or acts related to violence, except for the temporary block of the roads that are connected to the places of the demonstrations.

- **The Narration in accordance to the Topic for the Main Concerns Relative to the Violations and Breaches of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Condition**

According to the confirmed facts received from the field by the Peace and Freedom Organization PFO and its field team Sergio de Mello to monitor the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms SDMT and the information collected through the electronic monitoring and communications of the observers with the various active actors, the people working on this report, with the status of complete neutrality, in accordance to the applicable Iraqi law, guided by International law and in compliance with the standards of good and effective monitoring, they were able to obtain the largest amount of information where this was possible and they are collected where they were available. All the information has been underwent of checks, validation and confirmation as well as made sure about them. It was found that they represent explicit violations and breaches were sorted, categorized and classified as it was noted in the methodology. The total violations and breaches do not reflect the exact number of violations and irregularities and not the number of the victims, but they explain the type and form of violations and breaches as follows: -

1- Freedom of Transportation and Movement

The analysis of the information received by the Peace and Freedom Organization PFO via the SDMT team and the electronic monitoring team indicates that the blockage of the roads, whether internal or strategic vital, was random and unorganized by the demonstrators, and the goal behind their participation in all areas of the demonstration was to impede the development of public order in order to achieve greater pressure on the institutions of the Iraqi government to respond to their demands.

The demonstrators adopted methods that are also described as rudimentary with the process of blocking of streets. The organization stresses that all these methods did not lead to permanent blockages that require effort and resources described as huge to reopen them again, therefore, the method did not lead to serious damage, but mostly all of its results were related to obstructing the arrival of employees in various state departments to their working places.



On a related aspect, all the observers of the Sergio de Mello SDMT team confirmed information that was verified and confirmed that the demonstrators did not take any measures or impose instructions and orders of a discriminatory nature on any basis of the grounds for discrimination contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965, as they included absolutely everyone without regard to any limitations.

In this context, the organization's monitoring team reported from all the demonstration areas that witnessed regular street blocks, they facilitated the passage of medical and health services staff, water and electricity departments' employees. They



facilitated and even helped to deliver any medical or health emergency to the hospitals without regard to the purpose for which they closed the roads.

On the other hand, the Iraqi security forces in all their formations also carried out regular blocks for a wide range of roads, but it did not indicate any blockages of the vital and strategic roads, except for roads leading to the governorates of Karbala, Najaf and Nasiriyah as a result of the deteriorating security situation in these governorates. Also, the Iraqi security forces didn't block roads on a discriminatory basis and have facilitated the passage of urgent medical and health cases.

In all circumstances, the Peace and Freedom Organization concluded that the block of roads aims at three main goals. The first was blocking specific streets to secure or isolate the main demonstrations areas or areas experiencing mass human gatherings for the purpose of the demonstration; the second, security forces adopted blocking streets and imposing a partial curfew in any area during any attempt to break up sit-ins or gatherings of demonstrators and; the third objective of all contexts of street blocking was to cut off the streets leading to the vital buildings, official or semi-official buildings that are likely to be exposed to violence.

According to the aforementioned, the report writing committee is proposing a set of contexts of major roads, streets and intersections from some of the demonstration areas, which are of the utmost importance: -

- Blockage of Al-JUmhuriyah Bridge which is the link between Tahrir Square and the Karrada Mariam district, and the demonstrators were prevented from crossing it to both sides. This means blocking it in front of the demonstrators wishing to demonstrate in Tahrir Square from October 25 until writing this report.
- On October 30, blocking of Al-Sink and Al-Ahrar Bridge which is the link between Rusafa and Al-Karkh in Baghdad until writing this report.
- Partial blockage of the 14 Tammuz Bridge in Baghdad between Karrada and the Green Zone since the night of October 25, 2019, as it is only allowed to pass through government vehicles or in which government employees work in the Green Zone or those working within the personnel of sovereign ministries.
- The blockage of Tebah and Al-Thawra Bridge in Babel governorate by protesters intermittently from October 25 to date using burning tires or concrete blocks and steel structures.
- Closure of Al Haboubi Roundabout from October 25, 2019 to November 25, 2019 until the end of the old governorate building, next to the Al-Hadharat Bridge Roundabout, by the security forces and demonstrators in Nasiriyah.
- On October 25, 2019, the security forces blocked the road starting from Al-Haboubi Street near gold shops via the Statue of Al-Haboubi Roundabout and reaching the street before the Education Directorate building in Dhi Qar.
- Imposing daily curfews by security forces on 26 + 27 October 2019 in Nasiriyah, accompanied by a widespread deployment of security services in the city center.
- Blockage of Baghdad Street by protesters with burning tires on October 26, 2019 in Hilla.
- 3-7 October 2019, Demonstrators closed all the bridges in Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar Governorate Center, except the express bridge. The closure started from six in the morning until nine in the morning every day to prevent employees from reaching their offices in order to implement civil disobedience.
- On November 10, 2019, the street leading to the Dhi Qar Directorate of Education was closed by the Riot Police to prevent the demonstrators from closing the Education Directorate, which led to clashes between the two parties that ended with the employees being evacuated from the Education Directorate and the disruption of official working hours.



- In Rifa'ai District, a group of protesters blocked the road leading to the judiciary on November 8, 2019.
- A military force imposed curfew on Al-Rifa'ai District on October 8, 2019.
- After violent clashes between Riot Police and protesters in Nasiriyah on November 23, 2019, then the blockage of Al-Haboubi Street near the Education and the Local Administration street near the lobby and the blockage of the three bridges, and the Riot Police blocked the road near Al-Ain University to preserve the integrity of the university as a result of the spread of hatred speech claiming that this university belongs to political parties and should be burned.
- Demonstrators blocked the road leading to the Petronas Oil Company near the Sugar Castle of Al-Rifa'ai District, and the Samawah-Nasiriyya Road was blocked by demonstrators of Al-Batha Sub-district on November 23, 2019.
- On November 24 and 25, 2019, the demonstrators closed the bridges in Nasiriyah by burning tires at its beginning and from the end connecting the path to the island and towards Shamiya, which are both (Olive Bridge, Nasr Bridge, Bridge of Al-Hadharat, the Service Alternative Bridge, highway Bridge).
- The highway was blocked by demonstrators in Al-Nasr and Sukkar Sub-districts (Petronas Bridge) on November 25, 2019, and 50 protesters participating in the blockage were arrested by the security forces.
- Demonstrators blocked the Bridge of Al-BuAzam linking the cities of Nasiriyah and Fadhliya on November 26, 2019.
- The Tayyara neighborhood street and Bab Al-Hussein Bridge were completely blocked by the students demonstrating on November 28, 2019 in Al-Hilla, the center of Babil Governorate.
- Protesters in Diyala Governorate, exclusively on the 28th and 30th of November 2019 and December 1, 2019, blocked the road of Baquba - Baghdad near Shat Jadida City periodically and interruptedly in some days using flammable tires and sometimes using iron structures, but the security forces did not prevent them or to attack them until their withdrawal.
- The closure of the road leading to the shrine of Sayyida Joudeh to the center of Karbala Governorate, on the date of the demonstrators.
- Close of the intersection of Al-Safina Roundabout near the Popular Mobilization Authority, which is called Al-Mujama'at Street in Karbala, on
- Blockage of Dhariba Bridge in Karbala on the date near to the Tax Department and Karbala Preparatory School for Girls.



- Blockage of the the intersection of Bab Tuwayreej, the entrance to Karbala, Babil on a date by
- Closure of the intersection of Al-Moalemeen neighborhood near the Karbala Obstetrics Hospital.
- Closure of the Al-Hur road leading to the Al-Hur Al-Rayahi shrine in Karbala from in front of Nawras Games Land.
- Closing the entrance of Al-Jayer city, the entrance to Karbala Toureej, near the Sinbad Games Land.
- Blocking the Bab Baghdad intersection, the entrance of Karbala - Baghdad, near the Husseiniya Junction.
- The security forces in Basra blocked the road leading to Abu Al-Khaseeb District, which was also closed from the direction of Hai Al-A'askari on October 25-28, 2019.
- The security forces in Basra blocked the road of Saad Square, which leads to Al-Zubair District on October 25-28.



- The security forces in Basra blocked Al-Mutihah Street, which leads to Al-Wafud Street, on October 25-28, 2019.
- Basra security forces blocked Al-Zaytoon Street, which leads to Saad Square and the Qibla area, on October 25-28, 2019.
- Blocking of roads on November 24, 2019 by demonstrators in order to prevent employees from reaching their workplaces and the blockage was as follows: Karma Ali Bridge Road / Al-Kziza – Al-Tamim Intersection / Al-Zubair Road and the streets leading to it / blocking Khaled Umm Qasr Bridge / blocking of Abi Al-Khaseeb Road from Al-Awja Sub-district / Closing Tarbiyah intersection that leads to the Unified Card Department / closing Maher Thuwaini Square in Al-Zubair District, through which goes to the Internal Security Burjisiya and Nasiriyah / closure of the road to the Technical Institute in Basra.

2- The Right to Life and Murder

- The only **violation** of the demonstrations that can be described as a complete undermining of human rights is the murder of the official of Asaib Ahl al-Haq Movement office in Maysan by demonstrators. After verification and confirmation by the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), through Sergio de Melo SDMT team monitors relative to the circumstances of the incident and clarification of the general context in which the grave breach was committed, it became clear to them that a group of demonstrators went to the movement building on November 25, 2019 in the city of Amara to burn it. Violent clashes occurred in the area surrounding the office, the SDMT team documented the use of excessive force by the office guards towards the demonstrators. The demonstrators were warned by the guards through loudspeakers, but the protesters responded by targeting them with stones and Molotov cocktails, and the office guards subsequently used firearms of 7.62 x 39 mm AK47 caliber with live ammunition led to killing of a number of demonstrators. The situation developed and some demonstrators used AK47 weapons and hand grenades towards the office, as they used 2 grenades. The use of excessive force by office guards' is mentioned and described because they have continued to target protesters gathered around the office, even to those who did not pose a threat and who stand at great distances. At 18:15 pm, guards, accompanied by the office official, left for Al-Zahrawi Hospital due to the clashes he was wounded and needed the treatment. Then he was transferred to Al-Sadr Public Hospital in the city, while he and his brother Issam were inside the hospital with an ambulance of Maysan Health Directorate, hundreds of protesters attacked the hospital and a group of them got Aliawi and his brother off then severely beating them. Shocking and horrible testimonies reported the brutality that was dealt with Al-Aliawi, where he and his brother suffered fractures in most of their body, then one of those present near them shot and killed them directly, then he re-shot the bodies despite knowing that they were killed.



The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) notes that, no matter how large the accusations directed against the two victims, especially the Wisam Al-Aliawi, is directly responsible for the killing of 9 protesters and the injury of at least 45 others, during the clashes that took place around the Asaib Ahl al-Haq office, however, human rights must always be fully respected under any circumstance. On the other hand, getting a wounded person off from an ambulance inside a hospital always protected with absolute protection by international and local law, treating them inhumanly, then performing the worst forms of ill-treatment although he is a helpless wounded person, then killing him inside the hospital and re-shooting the bodies, this is a total undermining of human rights, as one of the simplest rights of the victim is the right to a fair trial that has been overlooked and instead to commit a grave breach, which is depriving his right to life brutally.

- On November 15, 2019, the Free Iraq Tent in Al-Habboubi Square in Nasiriyah, a tent designated for activists that contains a library, exploded after planting an explosive device equipped with small iron balls (shrapnel). The explosion killed one of the activists and wounded 15 others. Targeting the activists or individuals in general in this brutal and horrific manner shows a clear criminal intent of the responsible person to detonating and killing the activists with a prior knowledge, insistence, and intention as well as killing by using an explosive is considered an aggravating circumstance in the applicable Iraqi law.
- On November 25, 2019, Sheikh Haider Abdul-Amir al-Maliki, the activist in the demonstrations was assassinated in the district of Abi Al-Khasib south of Basra, as he was walking around in the city market and was killed near a clothing store where he was targeted by two gunmen riding a motorcycle and used muffler pistol to kill him.
- The body of one of the demonstrators was found stabbed with knives in the trunk of his car on 22 November 2019, in Karbala, Al-Hussein neighborhood where his kidnapping with his car had already been reported after he left the demonstration square.

3. The Right of Freedom to Demonstrate and Peaceful Assembly

- The security services in Nasiriyah prevented any demonstrations outside Al-Haboubi Square on October 26, 2019, as it chased and dispersed any gatherings that might be linked to demonstrations throughout the city, even if it was peaceful until the security situation deteriorated and got out of control on November 28, 2019.
- On October 28, 2019, the Police of Jibaish District in the marshes in Dhi Qar preventing solidarity protest with the demonstrations in Baghdad organized by a number of students in the mentioned area.

4- Activists, Defenders, and Freedom of the Press and Media

Activists and human rights defenders, especially those monitoring the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, journalists and media professionals, experienced critical difficult moments that were characterized by the direct threat to their safety and endangered the lives of many of them at grave risk, although some of them, especially those who monitor and observe violations and breaches, were present at demonstrations as fully neutrals, yet they had been included within all the arbitrary procedures which sometimes include the use of firearms, with the aim of killing or injuring by law enforcement officials.

The violations and breaches did not stop on those inside the squares or public yards to demonstrate, but exceeded to the safe areas, where any security measures are supposed to stop if they were described as necessary as they were subject to be arrested, detained, and intimidated while many of them were accused of being agents of foreign countries and carrying out plans across the border and receive support from specific governments.

The worst of what the activists were subjected to is the physical liquidation and cold-blooded murder, such as the murder of the activist Amjad Al-Dahamat, in the field of defending on the rights and freedoms on November 6, 2019 in Maysan, A'amara District, or kidnappings, which may be suspected as the forced disappearances, such as the activist Hasan Al-Banna on October 23, Karbala. The Sergio de Mello team to monitor and observe the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the field SDMT was able to capture a wide range of cases of violations and breaches against activists, defenders, journalists and volunteers, which were verified and confirmed, such as:

- On October 25, 2019, human rights and demonstrations activist, Karar Al-Sarifi, was arrested in Nasiriyah.
- On November 3, 2019, Sergio de Mello team observer for the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms was injured near Baghdad's Al-Khilani square with a smoke bomb directly, horizontally and



deliberately in the right leg, despite wearing the clothes marked with the blue badges and he was transferred to the hospital.

- On November 24, 2019, Sergio de Mello team observer for the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms near the Al-Ahrar Bridge in Baghdad, in Al-Sadr area was injured with a smoke bomb horizontally, directly and deliberately. He was entered into intensive care after the injury resulting in muscle spasms and contractions.
- On November 30, 2019, Sergio de Mello team observer for monitoring the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the SDMT field injured and has a fracture in the hand as a result of targeting protesters with smoke and live bullets near the Al-Ahrar Bridge in Baghdad.
- On October 21, 2019 a Sergio de Mello's team observer was detained in Baghdad at Al-Masbah Police Station.
- On October 27, 2019 the activist Samir Al-Faraj was arrested in Al-Anbar Governorate by Al Anbar Governorate Police, and he was released a month later.
- On 27 and 29 October, an attempt to arrest the activist Abdullah Nazim in Al-Anbar Governorate in Al-Anbar.
- On October 26, 2019, the staff of Al-Iraqiya Satellite channel was assaulted by demonstrators and beating him in Nasiriyah, Al-Haboubi Square in Nasiriyah, and expelling them from the protest square.
- On October 26, 2019, assault by the demonstrators on the staff of the Afaq Satellite channel in Al-Haboubi Square in Nasiriyah, and expelling them from the protest square.
- On October 27, 2019, France Press Agency photographer Asaad Al-Nayazi was assaulted by beating and stabbing by an unknown party near the Al-Habboubi Roundabout towards the Nile Street in Nasiriyah, where all the demonstrators denied the perpetrators relation with them. He was stabbed with a screwdriver in the back, struck with a herd on the head and theft of his motorcycle and all of his tools Used by photojournalism.
- A massive campaign of arrests carried out by the Dhi Qar Governorate police against journalists and human rights and demonstrations activists on October 27, 2019, and they arrest:

No	Name of the Arrested Activists	Specification
1	Hussain Karim Al-Aamil	Media activist
2	Ali Hussain Karim	Media activist
3	Ammar Humadi	Social activist
4	Ali Minjal	Lawful activist and university instructor
5	Wasfi Tahir	Activist and Teacher
6	Udai Al-Jabri	Human rights activist
7	Sajjad Sami A'uda	Media activist and poet
8	Wisam Nadhim Muhsin	Human rights activist
9	Hisham Al-Somari	Freedom and rights activist
10	Ahmad Sajit	Freedom and rights activist
11	Ali Mahdi	Human rights activist

- On October 28, 2019, the killing of the activist Safaa al-Saray, a political activist in the field of defending freedoms, with a smoke bomb in Tahrir Square in Baghdad.
- On October 25, 2019, the activist, Haider Al-Qubtan, was strangled by smoke while trying to provide medical assistance to other demonstrators in Tayyara neighborhood, the center of the city of Hilla in Babel.
- On November 6, 2019, the activist, Bassam Mahdi, was seriously injured after he was subjected to an assassination attempt, accompanied by the activist Amjad Al-Dahamat, who was killed in the same accident, at nine in the evening, after leaving the Maysan Police headquarter, in Maysan Governorate, Al-Amara District.
- On November 22, 2019A, the activist, Jawad Al-Harishawi, was subjected to an assassination attempt, in the Al-Mua'alemeen neighborhood in Maysan Governorate, after he left the demonstrations square.
- On October 26, 2019, a group of demonstrators burned Al-Fahaya Radio Station in Maysan using Molotov cocktails at seven in the morning.
- The complete prohibition of roaming or coverage of the Iraqia Satellite Channel from the first day of the demonstrations in Maysan by the demonstrators.
- October 8, 2019, the activist Ali al-Hiliji was kidnapped in A'awasha District, Maysan Governorate, where he was kidnapped in front of Al-Majrawi Mosque by an unknown body, using a black Tahoe vehicle. He is still kidnapped or disappeared ²¹.



- On November 17, 2019 targeting the home of the activist Muhammad Nasser (Abu Rabia) with a hand grenade that resulted in the burning of his entire house.
- On November 17, 2019 targeting the home of the activist Wissam Nazim Mohsen (Wissam Al-Thahabi) with a hand grenade (grenade) that resulted in material damage only.
- The arrest of the professor and activist Ahmed Ali Abbas Al-Maarouf (Ahmad Al-Tamimi) after his departure from Al-Haboubi Square in central Nasiriyah by a security force and he was released after several hours.
- On November 30, 2019, the activist Samad Al-Shatri was subjected to a failed assassination attempt, as the operation took place on Saturday evening, he was shot by seven bullets and he is still in hospital.
- On November 1, 2019, the activist, Majeed Al-Zubaidi, survived in a failed assassination attempt, when he was shot by two persons using a 4x4 car at the door of his house at 12 p.m.

²¹ The Report Writing Committee indicates that, in light of the lack of knowledge about the party that taken the activist above, the situation and due to legal characterization considerations remain pending between kidnapping and forced disappearance.

- On November 5, 2019, at 6:00 a.m. at the Al-Sumoud Intersection in Umm Qasr, a group of journalists working as correspondents for the Al-Mirbad Site²², correspondents for Reuters and the France Press Agency were severely beaten by demonstrators, who were Noor Al-Tamimi, Nabeel Al-Jourani and Dawood Salman.
- On November 24, 2019, the management and the protection team of Al-Sadr Teaching Hospital prevented the reporter Al-Mirbad Ahmed Ali from media coverage to get to the dead and injured victims from Umm Qasr nearby.

5- Burning Official and Semi-official Institutions, Public and Private Properties, and Diplomatic Missions

As a result of the general public anger over the government's suppression against demonstrations in the demonstrations of 1 to 9 October 2019 and the failure of the Iraqi government represented by its parties and personalities, the demonstrators in the October 25 demonstrations took a specific behavior and a consistent pattern characterized mainly by a violent reaction towards official institutions directly related to the decision-making process such as the premises of official and semi-official institutions in the provinces of Nasiriyah, Babil and Maysan.

No	Premises (Institution)	Governorate	Date of Burning and Destruction
1	Divan of Thi Qar Governorate	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
2	Dhi Qar Provincial Council	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
3	Political Prisoners Building	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019



The Smoke Rain

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4	Municipal Council Building	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
5	Asaib Ahl al-Haq Movement Office 1	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
6	Asaib Ahl Al-Haq Administrative Office	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
7	Hezbollah Office, Iraq Organizing	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
8	Sayed Al-Shuhada'a Brigades Office	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
9	Headquarter of Dawlat Al-Qanwn Alliance	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
10	Imam Ali Brigade Office	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
11	Badr Organization Office	Thi Qar - Al-Shatra	October 25, 2019
12	Dhi Qar Rest House and Hospitality	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
13	The house of the head of the security committee, Dhi Qar	Thi Qar	October 25, 2019
14	Skirmishes and clashes to burn the house of Representative Nasser Turki	Thi Qar - Al-Shatra	October 26-30, 2019
15	House of the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers Hamid Al-Ghazzi	Thi Qar	November 3, 2019
16	House of Representative Najji Al-Saeedi	Thi Qar	November 5, 2019
17	House of Representative Zainab Al-Khazraji	Thi Qar	November 5, 2019
18	House of Representative Mona Al-Ghurabi	Thi Qar	November 5, 2019
19	The house of the provincial council member, Rajah Matroud	Thi Qar	November 5, 2019
20	The House of the provincial council member Rashid Al-Sarai	Thi Qar	November 5, 2019
21	The headquarter of Asaib Ahl al-Haq	Maysan	November 25, 2019
22	Badr Organization Office	Maysan	November 25, 2019
23	Sheikh Yaqoubi School	Maysan	November 25, 2019
24	The Awfiya Movement Office	Maysan	November 25, 2019
25	Imam Ali Brigade Office	Maysan	November 26, 2019
26	The headquarter of the Reformation (Al-Islah) Movement	Maysan	November 26, 2019
27	The headquarter of Nujaba movement	Maysan	November 26, 2019
28	Caravans, 15 public properties	Baghdad – Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge	October 28, 2019
29	National Insurance Company (Riot Force - Smoke Bomb)	Baghdad Al-Khilany	November 11, 2019
30	Police Barrack near Shorja	Baghdad near Al-Wathba area	November 23, 2019
31	House of Head of District of Al-Gharaf	Thi Qar, Al-Gharaf	November 12, 2019

²² A website has an active presence on the scene in Basra, covering security, social, political and economic events.

32	House of MP Razzaq Mohaibes	Thi Qar	November 13, 2019
33	House of the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Council of the Garraf, Abbas Muhalhal	Thi Qar, Al-Gharaf	November 13, 2019
34	House of Adel Mohsen, member of Al-Gharaf District Council,	Thi Qar, Al-Gharaf	November 15, 2019
35	Dhi Qar Clan Host (Ministry of Interior affiliated institution)	Al- Nasriyah	November 21, 2019
36	The new building for the office of Dhi Qar Governorate	Al- Nasriyah	November 24, 2019
37	House of MP Hilal Al-Sahlani	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
38	Municipal Council of Suq Al-Shiyukh	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
39	Suq Al-Shiyukh District Office	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
40	Al-Dawaya District Office	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
41	House of Representative Khaled Al-Asadi	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
42	Shiite Endowment Department Building	Thi Qar	November 25, 2019
43	Badr Organization Office	Babyl	November 27, 2019
44	Burning parts of the shrine of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim	Al-Najaf	November 28, 2019
45	The Iranian consulate in Najaf burned 3 times	Al-Najaf	December 1, 2019
46	House of Representative Sadiq Al-Muhanna	Babyl	October 29, 2019
47	House of Representative Hassan Al-Ka'abi	Babyl	October 27, 2019
48	House and car of Representative Manal Wahhab Al-Musallamawi	Babyl	October 27, 2019
49	Home and office of representative Haitham al-Jubouri	Babyl	October 25, 2019
50	House of Representative Sadiq Madloul	Babyl	October 25, 2019



51	National Reform Current Office	Babyl	October 25, 2019
52	Office of the President of the Council Raad al-Jubouri	Babyl	October 25, 2019
53	Nouri Al-Maliki Office	Babyl	October 25, 2019

6- Health and Medical Assistance

Peace and Freedom PFO presents its second report on the overall situation of the human rights condition and fundamental freedoms through the observers of its team, Sergio de Mello, for monitoring and observing the situation of human rights and basic freedoms in the field from October 1 to December 1, 2019. It sends with the utmost respect and appreciation its message to those heroes who lived difficult and bitter moments from the civilian volunteers and health personnel who provided medical emergency assistance for all parties in the demonstrations, especially those who benefited from their noble services among members of its SDMT team who were injured in the demonstrations.

The Organization adheres to the neutrality, after reviewing dozens of video recordings and written information received from the demonstration field, especially in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, and Najaf. It thanks the exceptional efforts, the great courage, and the spirit of initiative shown by the motorcycle drivers (Tiktoks) who presented themselves as true defenders of human rights in the field as well It refers to the exceptional efforts made by civil defense directorate officials who were in contact lines between demonstrators and law enforcement officials to rescue the injured and wounded and evacuate the bodies of the dead victims.

The information received from the demonstration field also proved that the woman played a great role and occupied important and advanced positions providing medical assistance and care for the wounded and injured. They endured and experienced stressful conditions and circumstances, the first of which is the direct threat to life and personal safety because of her keenness to provide medical assistance to those who need or require her.

There is confirmed information by the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) that law enforcement officials, especially in Baghdad, directly and directly targeted ambulances and three-tire motorcycles (Tiktoks), medical aid employees and volunteers who perform their duty with impartiality without any positive discrimination mentioned. Although wearing the Medical waistcoat marked with the international emblem, the clarity of the signs of the international emblems represented by the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which were prominently placed on the ambulances or Tiktoks, without posing any danger to law enforcement officials and its safety, they were targeted without any consideration for the role they play to preserve the right to life.

The Peace Organization, through what have been presented, has documented via the monitoring and observing team the following actors that provided emergency medical assistance in the field. The Peace and Freedom Organization reserves that the parties listed below may not represent all the participating actors:

No	Actor	No	Actor
1	Iraqi Ministry of Health	2	Civil Defense Directorate
3	Motorcyclist or Tiktok drivers	4	Medical Support Company / Federal Police
5	Iraqi Red Crescent Society	6	Popular Mobilization Authority
7	Voluntary teams	8	Labor Syndicates and Profession Unions
9	University and medical institute students	10	Civil Society Organizations

In this context, the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) presents incidents classified according to documented and confirmed data on cases that constitute violations and breaches whose victims were medical and health assistance cadres as follows:

- On October 26, 2019 targeting an ambulance belonged to Baghdad Health, while the driver was trying to rescue one of the demonstrators near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge with a smoke bomb that broke the back window and getting inside.



- On October 26, 2019 targeting an ambulance for the civil defense with a smoke bomb while the driver was trying to rescue one of the demonstrators near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge in Baghdad, where the bomb hit the driver's side door.
- On November 2, 2019 targeting an Iraqi health ambulance near the Al-Ahrar Bridge in Baghdad with three gunshots, two of which hit the warning lights on top of the car, while the third hit the side door of the driver.
- On October 27, 2019 burning a motorcycle (Tiktok) intentionally by the Riot Police, near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge in Baghdad, and the driver was severely beaten while trying to rescue one of the injured.
- On October 25, 2019 horizontal direct hit with a smoke bomb of the head of a tiktok driver who immediately died near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge in Baghdad.



- On November 7, 2019 targeting the emergency medical group near the Al-Ahrar Bridge with a smoke bomb horizontally and directly which led to suffocation of one of them and the deterioration of his health condition seriously, which necessitated his transfer to Sheikh Zayed Hospital.
- On November 8, 2019 targeting one of the medical assistance teams in the field from the volunteers in Al-Rashid Street in Baghdad, in the confined area between the Central Bank and Marouf Ghani Al-Rusafi Square, and was subsequently transferred to the hospital.
- On November 10, 2019, the medical team of Al-Haboubi Hospital located in Al-Nasiriya, Al-Haboubi Street, opposite to the Al-Jumhuriyah Preparatory School, brought wounded protesters to the hospital in order to provide medical assistance to them, despite the absence of an emergency hall for this hospital, as a result of which the Riot Forces surrounded the hospital in order to arrest the injured. The medical staff refused to respond to their demands, stayed as a blocking wall against the Riot, and preventing them from entering the hospital, this situation forced the security forces to launch tear gas bombs at the medical staff, then they withdrew after the medical staff insisted that they didn't let them enter the hospital and to arrest the injured and wounded protesters.



7. Arbitrary detention and Arrest, Kidnapping, Forced Disappearance and Unknown Destiny²³.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) indicates that the restricting freedom case in all its forms is a difficult and complicated file, but the file was handled with great caution to seek correctness and verification of information. Therefore; the number of those who have disappeared and then appeared or did not appear reached 52 people between male and female protesters or activists in the demonstrations. The Peace and Freedom Organization directed the monitoring and observing team not to focus on the missing persons who are focused on by media, such as the kidnapped Saba or Dr. Helw, to mention a few.

In relation to the number of missing persons, the Peace and Freedom Organization met or contacted 41 people, 7 of whom claimed that they were not unknown, despite of having leaflets with their names and photos as missing people, while the name was ignored after contacting him once. When he was contacted for the second time for verification and confirmation the integrity of the information, he provided contradictory information. Therefore; 33 cases were approved within the context of the report:

No	Name of Unknown Destiny	Disappearance Date	Returning Date	Perpetrator	Result
1	Maimuna SH M	28/10/2019	18/11/2019	Kidnapped from an unknown body	The victim returned 20 days after she was kidnapped
2	Zainab H D	29/10/2019		Unknown fate	
3	Ghaith N I	16/11/2019	18/11/2019	He refused to provide further information	Returned after two days from disappearance
4	Ali K S	25/10/2019	03/11/2019	Injured in Sa'adoun Center	He was found in Sadoun's center
5	Ahmad Sh A	26/10/2019	02/11/2019	He refused to provide further information	Return after 6 days
6	Muhammad N J	12/11/2019	25/11/2019	Provides illogical information	Return after 13 days
7	Akram H M	22/11/2019	25/11/2019	He refused to provide further information	Return after 3 days
8	Muamal M A	18/10/2019	26/10/2019	Wounded, Kndi Hospital	Return after 8 days
9	A'abd H N	04/11/2019	-	Unknown destiny	-
10	Muhammad A R	25/10/2019	25/11/2019	Illogical information	Return a month later
11	Muqtada A J	06/11/2019	-	Unknown destiny	-
12	Hussain F M	09/11/2019	30/11/2019	Detained by Riot Force	Return 20 days after being arrested by the Riot force
13	Ali H M	25/10/2019	05/11/2019	Injured at the Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge	Return after 10 days
14	Muqtada (Father's name not mentioned)	04/11/2019	06/11/2019	He was arrested at Al-Sadoun Police Station	Return two days after his arrest at the Saadoun Police Station
15	Ali T H	21/11/2019	28/11/2019	At the Al-Ahrar Bridge	He did not provide additional information
16	Haidar M A	27/10/2019	30/11/2019	He is detained by the Riot police	He was detained for 3 days
17	Wisam S M	29/10/2019	-	Unknown destiny	-
18	Qasim M M	11/10/2019	28/10/2019	Detained at the airport	He was arrested at the airport by the National Security Forces
19	Karim R H	26/11/2019	01/12/2019	In the demonstrations	He reported his presence in the demonstrations

²³ Overlapping the legal term among kidnapping, forced disappearance, missing and unknown destiny, therefore; there characterization of each case needs a wide investigation to know the accurate legal characterization.



The Smoke Rain

The Second Report

Demonstrations of October 25 – December 1st in Iraq / Peace and Freedom Organization

20	Haidar Q J	30/10/2019	06/11/2019	He is detained at the airport by the security forces	He was detained by the security forces at the airport for a period of 7 days
21	Mustafa M M	24/10/2019	04/11/2019	Tahrir demonstrations	Available in Tahrir Square demonstrations
22	Ali A W	22/11/2019	28/11/2019	Detained at the airport by Squad 11	He was arrested at the airport by 11th Squad for 6 days
23	Muhammad A S	27/10/2019	04/11/2019	He is detained by the Riot Police	He was detained by the Riot Police for a week
24	Ahmad B M	14/11/2019	22/11/2019	Kidnapped by an unknown actor	He was kidnapped by an unknown actor for 8 days
25	Ahmad F M	13/11/2019	22/11/2019	He is detained by the Riot police	He was detained for 9 days in Green zone
26	Hussain A M	05/11/2019	13/11/2019	In the demonstrations of al-Khilani Square	He was present in the demonstrations of al-Khilani Square
27	Salih M Y	15/11/2019	01/12/2019	Kidnapped by unknown actor for 15 days	He has been released
28	Ali J L	08/10/2019	-	Unknown destiny	-
29	Ridha S H	31/10/2019	07/11/2019	Abu Nawas Bridge	He was at Abu Nawas Bridge for 7 days
30	Laith A F	25/10/2019	25/11/2019	Topchi area	He was arrested for a month in Topchi area
31	Hasanen Y A	25/10/2019	-	Unknown destiny	-
32	Omar D m	-	-	Rejected to provide information	-
33	Hussain A A	-	-	Rejected to provide information	-

8- Use of Force and Firearms

" We are shocked with the information you're providing us and the massive, brutal and horrible use of weapons, smoke bombs by Iraqi Security Forces to suppress the demonstrators. We must continue to monitor the situation closely. The fact related to the victims fall, is you who keep them for the day or the future. Our hearts with you. "

A quote from a phone call between the Executive Director of PFO with a team observer of SDMT in Baghdad, November 27, 2019.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) focused and issued specific instructions through which it directed its team Sergio de Mello to monitor and observe the human rights situation in the SDMT field to know everything that related to the use of lethal and non-lethal weapons by security forces or demonstrators alike and should be a necessity to be noted.



As the organization considers that determining the number of dead or injured victims in the demonstrations accurately and determining the context of each violation or breach independently and surely is a very difficult and complicated process due to the large size of the geographical area in which the demonstrations are spreading on the one hand and on the other hand the difficulty of limiting the number of victims within the region due to the inconsistency with the numbers between the different authorities. In relation to the same issue, as law enforcement officials do not allow any human rights observer to approach their places, so this context was imposed to focus on the type of weapons on one hand and the way



to use them. Working to know the truth regarding this aspect, is a more rewarding process that can be worked on with great professionalism and proof that the use of legally prohibited weapons or proof of their use in a prohibited manner will serve the purpose of determining later the reality of what is going on in isolation from the number of dead or injured victims.

In this way, and according to the instructions issued by the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), the Sergio de Mello SDMT team was able to fully comprehend all that was used by the parties of the demonstrations in cases of the use of force, whether by law enforcement officials or demonstrators. The observers of Sergio de Mello



team SDMT provided the organization and the report writing committee with confirmed detailed information and picked up from all regions, from the remnants of the used weapons and were verified and proven to be actually used in these demonstrations, so that the Peace and Freedom Organization will carry out a classification, categorization and sorting them according to specific criteria that summarize the first two frameworks in terms of type of weapon and its ability to kill and destroy and the second how and the way to use these weapons²⁴.



□ Weapons Used by Law Enforcement Personnel

i. Firearms (Lethal Weapons)

Observers of Sergio de Mello's SDMT team documented that law enforcement officials used weapons that are mainly light and medium basically and very limited in severity and could be applied to Nasiriyah only and that this classification includes weapons that fire live bullets.

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) concluded that law enforcement officials dealt with the use of this type of weapon with the aim of killing or wounding and were rarely used in order to create an atmosphere of fear for the demonstrators with the aim of dispersing them, as the observers were confident that even in cases where they used the firing mechanism in the air, it is after a period of time in the event that the protesters did not respond, they were fired at directly.

In the same context and in all the demonstration fields, firearms were used by law enforcement officials, especially in Nasiriyah, Najaf, Maysan, Basra, and dozens fell in every governorate as a result of the use of these weapons.

On the other hand, law enforcement officials, guards of some of the offices of partisan and political movements, and guards of some of political figures used firearms and fired directly, horizontally and targeted demonstrators in the upper parts of the body, especially the chest and upper abdomen, and to a lesser extent the head and legs. No circumstance was found for the organization at the very least, performing distinctions between the demonstrators and those who perpetrated violence inside the demonstrations, and all were randomly targeted.

Peace and Freedom Organization denies, through the information received, it is rumored that the use of firearms by law enforcement officials was carried out indiscriminately. It confirms that the shooting was not indiscriminate, but rather was indiscriminate killing, because the shooting towards human gatherings with previous knowledge, information and directly, with no doubt, will lead to death and wounds.

In another related aspect, the Peace and Freedom Organization did not reach any information explaining the use of official security forces on a limited scale, a heavy weapon against the demonstrators, specifically in Nasiriyah. The information confirmed the use of a 12.7 x 108 mm weapon against the demonstrators. At least 5 demonstrators were wounded and killed as a result of the use of this weapon. In the same context, the Peace and Freedom Organization has not been able to have access to decisive information explaining the use

²⁴ PFO has been assisted by two military experts to support the report writing committee to facilitate the task of sorting and classifying weapons.

of 12-mm hunting rifles by law enforcement personnel, especially since it expects 100% confirmed injuries as a result of widespread fragmentation.

With the assistance of two weapons experts, the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) was able, after examining the evidence gathered, to determine the calibrations of the weapons used and according to the following table.

No	Calibration of Used Weapon	Confirmed Used Weapon	Evidence	Type of the Weapon
1	7.62 x 39 mm	AK47 rifle	Empty cartridges	Light attack
2	7.62 x 54 mm	BKC machine gun	Empty cartridges	Medium support
3	9 mm	Various pistols	Empty cartridges	Light defensive
4	12 (cartridge)	Hunting rifle	Empty cartridges	As per the distance and type of ammunition
5	12.7 x 108 mm CAL	Submachine gun (mono)	Empty cartridges	Heavy machine gun
6	5.56 x 45 mm NATO	Attack Rifles M4, M16, M4A1	Empty cartridges	Light attack

ii. Bombs (with Propellant Filling)

"Are these tear gas bombs? They are blood tear bombs!!"

Director of the Board of Directors of the Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) during a review of video footage in Al-Rashid Street, Baghdad, on November 7, 2019

The PFO Report Writing Committee acknowledges that it was shocked and astonished while reviewing dozens of documented videos provided by Sergio de Mello SDMT team on the intensity, manner and types of bombs used against demonstrators, especially for the period between October 25 and October 28, 2019 in Tahrir Square near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge between October 30 and November 7 in the same location.

The report writing committee concluded that the bombs used by law enforcement officials were directed at the bodies of the demonstrators before anything else, as law enforcement officials were keen to target the protesters directly using the various bombs. Even the report writing committee concluded that law enforcement officials dealt with targeting the bodies of the demonstrators with bombs that are shot by direct propelling as a sniper as a basic and systematic option.



Through the collected samples, which Sergio de Mello SDMT team monitors believe, they were able to fully capture all shapes and types. After showing them to experts with a military background, it was found that they represent 8 different types, and it is certain that they caused large numbers of dead and injured victims while Non-lethal hand grenades formed a total of at least 9 types.

The military experts who were hosted by Peace and Freedom Organization PFO to view them videos documenting the moment of use of the bombs with propellant filling (cartridge equipped with gunpowder and a primary detonator working with hammering, is referred to locally by the cartridge). The experts pointed out that the standing way of the archer and backing the rifle on the shoulder and not from a free position confirms that it directly targets towards a specific objective. The experts benefited from video recording which is recorded on October 27, 2019 near Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge at 13:10 by observers of Sergio de Mello SDMT team demonstrating the movement of a law enforcement officer moving within a Riot Police Force at the first checkpoint currently controlled by the demonstrators, changed his position three times in

a row, trying to search for a clear launch line for the bomb to ultimately target one of the demonstrators right leg, despite the availability of several free spaces in front of him.

There have been many methods adopted by law enforcement officials from Riot police using various types of bombs to target demonstrators. One of the most brutal methods is to launch a group of multiple-use bombs at a time. On October 28, 2019 SDMT monitors documented how to launch a group of bombs at once from Al-Jumhuriyah Bridge towards Tahrir Square in Baghdad, where they used a brutal tactic, according to which a group of sound bombs were fired at multiple places in which the groups of protesters were hiding, at the moment of their exit to escape to other places, another wave of smoke bombs were shot. The videos show that the number of bombs ranges between 3 and 6 that directly and horizontally fired in the direction of human gatherings that escape.



The second method requires firing smoke bombs towards the ground, and as a result of the speed of the bomb, its impact on the ground, and its cylindrical shape, it changes its path more than once, making speculation towards the path of the smoke bomb especially impossible for the protestors to avoid injury.

Also, in the same context and in all areas of the demonstrations, law enforcement officials used both sound and smoke bombs towards human gatherings and avoid empty spaces available. In this regard, law enforcement officials from Riot Force launched bombs to target human gatherings in the back areas and central protest areas, which led to more victims, especially those with temporary blindness, severe suffocation and partial and complete loss of consciousness.

The videos in which PFO observers documented the use of these bombs among some of law enforcement officials, whether they were doing so with individual actions or orders, but they did the actions in accordance with a clear methodology, where consistent movement and voice commands circulated by members of the Riot Force, especially clear instructions, issued by individuals who have authority of some kind to which most of these forces obey them. In this context, a video spread out on social media on November 30, 2019 near the Zaytoun Bridge in Nasiriyah, showing a manner that does not accept the doubt, the offensive pattern pursued by the official regular forces is invalid by shooting and firing the smoke

and sound bombs at the same time that these law enforcement officers are subject to specific orders on how to move and how to use force.



Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) reviewed with the experts hosted them for the purpose of analyzing the use of weapons and there are the evidences available on the use of all types of weapons, whether by the demonstrators or law enforcement officials. It was reported by experts that four of the smoke bombs fired by a portable weapon and a propellant filling are not specifically intended to deal with the demonstrators and fro a close engagement situation, but the separation distances between the two parties must be at least 600 meters, to ensure that they fall in the buffer zone. The design of these bombs is also intended for anti-terrorist units or weapons processing units and special tactics or tactics patrols etc. It is usually used to clean buildings from armed elements or hostage-free operations inside cars, as it has the ability to break glass even if it was thick.

iii. Grenades

Law enforcement officials used multiple types of smoke and sound grenades, but in all areas of the demonstration, their use did not result in loss of life, as the nature of the impact of these weapons is a limited effect, mostly leading to cases of temporary blindness, suffocation or irritation with the tear channels of the eye.



However, the most affected were the bombs equipped with pepper spray, as the demonstrators suffered from severe irritation. Reports from the organization's electronic monitoring team also stated that elements of law enforcement did not identify the entity or the formation they belong to, with a limited and restricted framework and within certain areas they used Molotov cocktails against protesters and hand tools to target protesters with glass balls.

• The Use of Force, Firearms, Tools and Methods of Violence by Demonstrators

1. Firearms

Some protesters used very narrowly firearms of a lethal nature, as in all demonstration areas no use of weapons was indicated except in cases of a specific time and a specific location.

Two people used AK47 weapon in Maysan Governorate when the Asaib Ahl al-Haq office was targeted after clashes broke out between the office guards and the protesters, in response to the guards' use of the same type of firearms.

The observers also indicated the use of a 9 mm pistol by two people among the demonstrators, who carried out the killing of the office official, above, Wisam Al-Aliawi, after restricting his freedom completely.

Observers of the Sergio de Mello SDMT team also reported that armed clans, not demonstrators, deployed in various areas of Dhi Qar Governorate after the bloody events in the province on 28 to 30 November 2019 and they were not associated with the demonstrators in all cases.

The weapons of deadly nature that were used by people among the demonstrators were sorted as follows: -

No	Caliber of the used weapon	Confirmed used weapon	Sort of Evidence	Type of weapon
1	7.62 x 39 mm	AK47 Rifle	Empty cartridges and video record	Light and offensive
2	9 mm	Multiple pistols	Empty cartridges and video record	Light defensive

2. Molotov cocktails

Some protesters widely used Molotov cocktails against law enforcement officials in most demonstration areas, particularly in Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Najaf, Karbala, and Wasit.



Observers of the Sergio de Mello team SDMT have documented the use of this incendiary device in several locations, including the Turkish restaurant in Tahrir Square, Al-Jumhuriyah and Al-Ahrar Bridges, Al-Shuhada, Al-Sanak, Al-Khilani Square and Marouf Ghani Al-Rusafi Square. They were used in a wide range for the activities in the city of Nasiriyah and the burning of the Iranian consulates in Najaf and Karbala as well as it was used against Al-Tasfirat prison guards in Karbala Governorate and in the burning operations that affected public and private properties in Wasit Governorate.



3. Other tools and methods

The documented video records that documented by Sergio de Mello SDMT team monitors reported that the demonstrators used stones to stone the law enforcement personnel in all locations of the demonstrations, which is a very common and expected behavior in any demonstration. The protesters also used hand tools to target law enforcement officials with glass balls.

In addition to using them in a very narrow range, specifically in Jumhuriyah Bridge and the Sanak Bridge, to direct fireworks towards the locations of law enforcement personnel, in addition to using laser lights to block visibility and the temporary temporary blindness of law enforcement officials in the same places above.

9. Public Life and Living Conditions of the Population

- All governorates where demonstrations occurred greatly restricted the practice of public and normal life, as a feeling of fear seemed to dominate many individuals, especially women.
- All regions that witnessed demonstrations disrupted primary schools at least, while certain areas such as Nasiriyah, Najaf, Amara, and Karbala witnessed a temporary civil disobedience in which most government and semi-official institutions closed their doors.



- Human rights monitors recorded the departure of some families from their areas of residence until the conditions will be normalized, and most of them went to relatives in other areas of calmness.
- In general, sentinel government hospitals, municipal cleaning services, and the availability of water and electricity were not affected, as the institutions responsible for them continued to provide their services within their previous rates.
- A general feeling of loss of security prevailed as a result of the circulation of news related to the high cases of kidnapping, disappearance of people in separate areas of the country.
- The road blocking, especially bridges, imposed heavy burdens on citizens, as it may require turning around a bridge or a broken road for long hours to reach work places or homes.
- The country witnessed, despite its testing of these exceptional pressures from instability, a rise in the sense of citizenship and a great convergence between social groups, a wide ostracism on social media sites for hatred speech, fighting stereotypes, and gathering around speeches calling for civil peace. On the other hand, the gap and lack of confidence in political parties expanded and crossed to include some political figures.
- Seemingly, the demonstrations also followed other methods of social movements, as hundreds initiated decorating the demonstration squares with purposeful social drawings, and hundreds of voluntary campaigns were organized to clean streets, repair them, and paint sidewalks, while an exceptional social movement emerged with the support of local products in the economic sector, and youth figures leading these campaigns emerged with the aim of making a comprehensive change.
- All community segments and sectors, including religious actors, agreed that women played an essential role in social life during the period covered by the report, accompanied by widespread recognition of the status of women unusually, as rates of harassment and abuse of the right to privacy of women decreased and reached the minimum level, both inside and outside the demonstrations compared to the previous months.
- A massive solidarity campaign was launched to collect private donations to support the wounded and injured and to compensate the demonstrators whose private property was destroyed or burned as a result of the demonstrations such as the Tiktok motorcyclists who worked to rescue and transport the wounded.



Legal Framework in accordance with Domestic and International Law

The legal basis for assessing the response process for governments in the event of peaceful protests and demonstrations taking place in any public field is the extent to which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and protected in the application of this response. Therefore, the assessment of the response itself determines the moral and legal responsibility and whether these governments have fulfilled them.

Freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate and peaceful assembly are at the heart of a system in any country that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms because the influence of public on the governments exist by two means, either that it is in a peaceful manner or is otherwise. So the participation, if wide and planned, is intended for popularly and publicly, and it goes towards being peaceful, not violent, and pushing for change through the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, it will impose itself to be protected seriously and in all cases, such demonstrations should have the absolute support to maintain the momentum of their peace by law enforcement officials in particular.

The protection of demonstrations does not only mean providing direct protection for those who fall within the circle and the place of the demonstration, but it also extends to realizing other rights related to the right to demonstrate and peaceful assembly, such as the right to life and security, freedom of expression through various media, freedom of transportation and movement, and the guarantee of access to and safe communication between protesters, their families and their surroundings. Consequently, the working on rights must be interrelated and complementary.

The international charter has recognized its three instruments, ratified by the government of Iraq, clear basic rights and freedoms that cannot be compromised, its essence may be subject to restriction, however this restriction must be necessary, conditional and time-bound, and most importantly, it should succeed in testing the achievement of the supreme interests of peoples. In no way can invoke security deterioration or economic losses because they are also obligations of governments. Acts of the right to public and personal security is in itself another right of any individual who is on the territorial lands of the Republic of Iraq.

From this broad framework, both domestic laws start at the level of the Republic of Iraq and the relevant international and relationship, especially within the framework of international human rights law by framing these rights and freedoms with clear channels through its articles, whether in the constitution and the law of the state or through the international instruments ratified and joined by the state.

According to the geographical and objective narrative description of the above violations and breaches that occurred in the Republic of Iraq for the period from October 25, 2019 to December 1, 2019, they constitute clear violations that constitute crimes according to the local law of the Republic of Iraq and violations and breaches that some of the violations and breaches considered of a grave nature and according to their obligations to International instruments and related instruments according to:

1. The legal framework in accordance with the Iraqi law in force for violations committed by law enforcement elements or relevant government actions:

- The Iraqi constitution in force in 2005:
- Article 38 of the in force Iraqi constitution guarantees freedom of the press and information, freedom of expression of opinion, demonstration and peaceful assembly, which states (The state shall guarantee what does not violate public order and the public morals or ethics ... Freedom of expression of opinion by all means ... Freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration is regulated by law)²⁵ While the government

²⁵ Iraqi Constitution, Iraqi Parliament Website through the link:

<http://ar.parliament.iq/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A/>

- instructed through the Communications and Media Commission a decision to close the offices of many channels and prevented freedom of expression, as security forces chased in separate areas of the country, those who circulated pamphlets on demonstrations or against government policies, and Riot Force banned and suppressed hundreds of thousands of protesters using ugly and brutal means.
- Article 9 A of the constitution stipulates that the Iraqi forces should not be used to suppress the Iraqi people. (As in the text) the Iraqi armed forces and security services shall be among the components of the Iraqi people, in a manner that takes into account their balance and similarity without discrimination or



exclusion and is subject to the leadership of the civil authority and defends Iraq and **it is not a tool to repress the Iraqi people** ²⁶.

- The constitution guarantees in its Article 15 the right to life. In view of the fall of the number of more than 400 people, this is a clear violation of the constitution. In the same context, the security and safety of individuals is guaranteed also in the constitution as in the text (every individual has right to life, security and safety, deprivation or restriction of these rights may only take place in accordance with the law, and based on a decision issued by a competent judicial authority restrict it except in accordance with the law, and based on a decision issued by a competent judicial authority).
- Arresting individuals and detaining them outside the demonstration locations and for days without arrest orders issued by the Iraqi judiciary is contrary to Article 19, paragraph 12, which states, "It is prohibited to detain and not be imprisoned and arrested in places other than that designated for that."
- Burning motorcycle tiktoks by law enforcement officials for more than one time and destroying them is considered a violation of Article 23, paragraph 1, as it is private property, which stipulates that "private property is protected, and the owner has the right to use, exploit and dispose of it, within the limits of the law"
- Violation of Article 37 in all its joints by Law enforcement officials. The security forces did not respect human freedom and dignity in all demonstration areas as they detained, arrested, and investigated individuals or others for hours or days without a judicial decision. The video recordings of the electronic monitoring team also showed brutal and inhuman treatment of protesting citizens by Riot Force and others not identified as they severely beating them with batons, kicks, and weapons, and they threatened others with arrest, such as activists in Anbar Province and elsewhere while the Article 37, paragraph 1, states:

A - Human freedom and dignity are protected.

B - No one may be arrested or investigated except pursuant to a judicial decision.

C- It prohibits all types of psychological and physical torture and inhuman treatment, and does not express any confession extracted through coercion, threats or torture.

- The instructions of the Iraqi government to disrupt communications, including the Internet, violated Article 40 of the constitution, which states "freedom of communication and postal, telegraph, telephone, electronic and other communications is guaranteed"
- Law enforcement officials violated Article 45 first by undermining the role of organizations working in human rights and preventing them from reaching their points of presence and chasing activists working in them, as the article states: -

First: The state is keen to enhance the role of civil society institutions, and to support, develop and independence them, in a manner consistent with peaceful means to achieve their legitimate goals, and this is regulated by law.

- The Iraqi government, through its apparatus and employees, violated Article 46 of the Iraqi constitution, restricting more than one essence of the right and freedom, and as states that: "The exercise of any of the rights and freedoms stipulated in this constitution may not be restricted or limited except by law or according to it, provided that such limitation and restriction does not affect the essence of the right or freedom."
- His Excellency the President of the Republic violated the constitution by not applying Article 67 by not taking detailed decisions within the limits of his authority that support adherence to the constitution, as stated in the aforementioned article and "works to ensure compliance with the constitution."

²⁶ see the previous source

The legal framework for violations committed by law enforcement elements in accordance with the penal codes at the local level:

- The violations committed by law enforcement elements in accordance with the substantive and legal jurisdiction, they follow both Military Law No. 19 of 2007 ²⁷ in case they violate the orders issued to them that may have led to the commission of crimes, however the legislator in the Article 81 requires the in force of Penal Code 111 of 1969 And the Anti-Terrorism Law 13 of 2005 on all crimes that are not mentioned in



the military law. Therefore, the prosecution of the military staff for all the violations reported, the Iraqi government through the general command of the Iraqi armed forces can pursue judicially through the courts of the Supreme Judicial Council and not the just the military courts.

It is worth noting that there is a detail that requires the convicted defendant to be referred to a military court after conviction for issuing the rule of law against him through a military court. However, the jurisdiction always falls under the civil penal law in the case of crimes committed by law enforcement officials against civilians.

1) Violations committed by the demonstrators in accordance with the effective penal code and anti-terror law:

- Intentional killing comes in accordance with the Articles 405 and 406 of the Iraqi Penal Code, where demonstrators committed acts that have features of intentional murdering, some of which impose acceptance in conjunction with aggravating circumstances, even if on a very small scale in terms of numbers or regions, such as the Aliawi murder and the killing of Riot Force element on October 25, 2019 and the crime of throwing a demonstrator from the top of the Turkish restaurant, which, as previously reported, the committee writing committee, according to reasonable and acceptable circumstances, believes that the victim did not mistakenly or commit suicide, but he was pushed from the top of the building.
- Burning government institutions. The Iraqi legislator punishes the crime of intentional fire in Article (342) of the Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 of 1969 amended in paragraph II Z on (the punishment shall be life or temporary imprisonment if the fire is in one of the following places: (Z. A building occupied by an official or semi-official department, public institution, or public utility), therefore; burning government institutions is a serious crime. In the event that it was proved that the incineration was motivated by a terrorist and within the criminal purposes that fall into the commission of terrorist crimes, the jurisdiction is transferred from the aforementioned article to the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005.²⁸
- Blocking vital and strategic roads by the demonstrators, the report writing committee has reservations about imposing penalties in relation to them, as a guide to international law, except that the Iraqi legislator was not clear about blocking them except by the Freedom of Assembly Law issued by the Temporary Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq on July 10, 2003, because it is adopted on the laws and customs of war, as stated in its preamble.²⁹

International Legal Framework for Violations Committed by Law Enforcement

"The report writing committee indicates that the violations committed by the demonstrators cannot be adapted according to international law due to the absence of any international legal jurisdiction over Iraqi civilian individuals and technically the lack of an objective or spatial principle or the international evidence of the violations committed during the period of the demonstration allows for intervention at the level of international remedy as it gives reference to the Iraqi constitutional law. "

²⁷ see the constitution text, Iraqi parliament Gate, see the link:

<http://arb.parliament.iq/archive/2007/05/09/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%8519-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2007/>

²⁸ see the text of the law, see the Iraqi Legislations Basis through the link:

<http://iraql.d.hjc.iq:8080/LoadArticle.aspx?SC=291120071434757>

²⁹ see the text of the law, see the Iraqi Legislations Basis through the link:

<http://iraql.d.hjc.iq:8080/LoadLawBook.aspx?SC=210220067254094>

Iraq has ratified and joined many international instruments, whether it is a declaration, a covenant or an agreement. Therefore, this accession imposes on the Iraqi government specific and clear obligations that have been interpreted either through the committees of the instruments or special or independent working groups on their subject matter or through the United Nations offices or the International Committee of the Red Cross. Therefore, it imposes respect and fulfills them in terms of implementation, enforcement or execution, and the Iraqi government as a representative of the State of Iraq will be requested through multiple channels and multiple UN mechanisms, either ethically or legally.



Part of these obligations applied to the Republic of Iraq through ratification and accession, talks about ensuring freedom of protest and peaceful assembly, and this freedom relates to other rights. Hence, the international community asks about freedom and everything related to it directly or indirectly.

According to the violations committed during the dispersal of demonstrations and protests for the period from October 25, 2019 to December 1, 2019, which is the period covered by this report, international law and according to the substantive jurisdiction will be international human rights law because it came in the state of peace, therefore the obligations that the report writing committee was able to note the following:

1. The 1948³⁰ Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights imposes moral obligations of a nature that related to the legal obligation breached in articles:

- The Right to Life, Article 3
- Humane treatment and respect for human dignity, Article 5
- Recognition of the Legal Personality Article 6
- Ending arbitrary detention and restricting unlawful personal freedom, Article 9
- The freedom to move and transport Article 13
- Freedom of Expression, Article 19
- Freedom of assembly and peaceful protest, Article 20 first
- The Right of Organizations, Defenders, and Media to Defend Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Articles 27, II and 28

2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966³¹

- Accountability and litigation procedures guaranteed Article II - Paragraph III - A, B, C.
- Ensuring and protecting the right to life, Article VI, first paragraph
- Ensuring the right to personal security and freedom from arbitrary arrest and violation of Article 9, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Ensuring freedom of transport and movement, and not restricting it, Article 12, paragraphs I and III
- Ensuring trials without delay, Article 14, Paragraph 3 C
- Not to interfere with inspection and investigation of homes, houses, shelters, habitats, or any similar kind of human habitation except by a legal and fundamental judicial order and protection from this interference Article 17, paragraphs first and second
- Ensuring freedom of expression of opinion Article 19 First and Second with regard to the restriction mentioned in the third paragraph, the report-writing committee went through the information received that the imposition of the restriction was general and comprehensive. Hence, the restriction violated the right to freedom of expression related to the right to demonstrate and peaceful assembly but the committee declares (reservation and tributes) the security measure that was followed in the province of Muthanna, Diyala, Nineveh, Kirkuk and Salahaddin, as law enforcement elements allowed the demonstration and dispersed it peacefully because the essence of the truth is the dispersal of demonstrators by their desire without pressure. However, the committee considers with regard to the violent context, the use of lethal force in the other parallel demonstrations, which reserves the procedure and tributes the proportionate dealing of the use of force, an opinion subject to relativity

³⁰ to see the full Universal Declaration Content through this link:

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/b001.html>

³¹ to see the content of the full covenant go to:

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/b003.html>

within the activities of human rights and in all cases must not translate the tribute contained here apart from the reservation under any circumstances.

- Ensuring freedom of assembly and related freedoms for peaceful demonstration Article 21. The report-writing committee considers that the absolute, general and comprehensive restriction of the exercise of this right constituted a clear violation of the essence of the right, but on the other hand, it takes into account, the actions have been taken by law enforcement elements to restrict the right for gatherings that led to the burning of government institutions and official buildings, part of which constituted service infrastructure or



constitutes private properties such as parties property. The report writing committee, condemns in strongest terms, the excessive use of force and firearms with the aim of killing, as it sees and according to the information, there was possibility to disperse these violent demonstrations in specific areas without resorting to the use of firearms and thus would have prevented the loss of life.

3- International Criminal Law, International Criminal Court Law ICC

" The Report Writing Committee indicates that the legal adaptation in accordance with the International Criminal Court system, which is based on the Rome Treaty of 1998, does not apply to the situation in the Republic of Iraq due to the lack of ratification and accession by the Republic of Iraq to the above treaty, but it has adapted the violations given that the International Criminal Court is the only personal specialty at the international level to hold individuals accountable, and that substantive jurisdiction may interfere with its competencies if the elements of crimes are available in it."

- According to the elements of crimes issued by the International Criminal Court in 2002³² and approved by the States parties to the Treaty of Rome 1998 and specifically in Article VII first paragraph A first where it was confirmed when reviewing many video records that there were intentional killings in which firearms were used and the wrongful intentional use of weapons which are used to disperse demonstrations such as launchers of tear or sound bombs. The committee respects the powers of the investigative authorities to decide whether the use of them was at the moment of the attack or was it from defensive positions where no information can be found to clarify this aspect.

4. Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials 1979

According to the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, which was adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution by Member States with the Resolution 34/169 on December 17, 1979, it is the responsibility of all officials assigned to issue laws to protect individuals wherever they are and at all times. Consequently, the law enforcement official must always protect, respect, and fulfill all that is contained in the local law of the state and all obligations at the international level with regard to ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms.

However, what has been proven during the period between October 25, 2019 and December 1, 2019 in Iraq during the ongoing demonstrations, we find that in most of the demonstrations the demonstrators are exposed to death and injury leading to permanent or non-permanent disability, arrest, severe beatings, humiliation of human dignity, expropriation, arbitrarily detention and arrest and not guaranteeing the arrival of medical assistance, on the contrary, target those who perform medical assistance and in its entirety are clear violations of the articles mentioned in the Personnel Code of Conduct of 1979 referred to above and according to the following articles:

1. Article One stipulates that law enforcement officials must protect all persons.
2. Article Three stating that law enforcement officials should not use force except with the utmost necessity and the extreme necessity is the imminent danger that threatens life, whether the law enforcement officer or others provided that no other means are available to avoid the damage.
3. Article Five stipulates the duty of the law enforcement official to combat torture and inhuman and abusive treatment that violates human dignity and to report these crimes and their perpetrators, i.e not to neglect them.
4. Article Six stipulates that the law enforcement officer is responsible for providing the necessary health and medical care, and therefore also entails another guarantee that must be made, which is providing medical assistance to any victims of violations of the law.

³² to see the full Code of Elements of Crimes:
<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/iccelements.html>

5. **Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials**

The Report Writing Committee acknowledges the legal conventional gap at the level of international law, which the legislation may entail due to the close interdependence between them in terms of the weakness of the international legislator by setting clear and other criteria related to specific interpretations about the lack of definitions of force or firearms and the lack of a threshold for proportionality, especially with regard to the issue of imminent threat or the imminent danger, therefore, the legal adaptation of the committee will be in this field, depending on the previous



adaptation of demonstrations that witnessed a similar context and the context of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Libya was chosen as a model as it constitutes a legal and social environment in close proximity For the prevailing environment in the Republic of Iraq, which is in terms of adaptation, it is divided into:

- The principle of proportionality. The third principle of the basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials. What happened in the demonstrations of the Republic of Iraq between October 25 and December 1, 2019, the elements of law enforcement did not apply the principle of proportionality.
All the regions have witnessed, without difference, excessive, violent, and lethal use of force and firearms, therefore, in order proportionality to be legitimate and acceptable, the law enforcement elements must take two directions to avoid the use of firearms, and that they take technical means such as protective clothing and fenders, which have been proven to be unnecessary due to the great distance between them and the demonstrators, the second is a means related to alternatives, the most important of which are negotiations and means of persuasion that were not available. Other than this, the committee in charge of reviewing the documented information and evidence concluded that all cases of the use of weapons were random and from long distances and horizontally towards human gatherings, therefore local and not international law only would assume that they were direct intentional killings.
- The principle of necessity and includes principles 9, 13, 14 and 15 of the above principles, as indicated in the principle of proportionality. What makes the use of force unnecessary is the distance between the two parties, therefore the use of firearms was not necessary in most of the demonstrations. In addition, the procedures followed the use of firearms were also deficient procedures. The principle 16 and 17 were not respected, and the two are criminalizing unnecessary force. However, the report writing committee considers the Iraqi government's announcement that law enforcement officials involved in killing protesters and referring them to the judiciary, but the government will reserve the actions that they will take in the future if they are not announced and transparent, and that the provision of assistance by law enforcement elements after using force in accordance with principle 18 must be present and this has not been achieved, but the direct deliberate targeting of medical care crews and the health, is proven. As well as the use of untrained elements such as Facilities Protection Force to deal with demonstrations and protests, is a violation of principle 21.

Recommendations

1. The Iraqi government

- Joining the Treaty of Rome in 1998 to guarantee an international non-impunity for anyone who commits grave violations considered crimes against humanity, whose victims may be in contact with the freedom to demonstrate, and peaceful assembly in addition to further strengthening the role of the State of Iraq in front of the international community in the field of criminal justice.
- Work to present those responsible for committing violations among law enforcement officials, especially the commanders, and specifically those related to the deliberate killing of demonstrators, to the Iraqi civil and military courts.
- Working to present any individuals or persons who took advantage of the right to demonstrate and peaceful assemble and who committed criminal crimes such as murder and burning official and semi-official institutions.
- The Report Writing Committee recommends that the Iraqi government and all its institutions not pursue the demonstrators who participated in blocking vital and strategic streets or roads.
- The report writing committee recommends the Iraqi parliament to cancel the 2003 Demonstration and Assembly Law, which was approved by the Coalition Provisional Authority.
- The Report-Writing Committee recommends that the Iraqi parliament approve the draft law on the freedom to demonstrate and peaceful assembly in line with the demands of the demonstrators.
- The Report Writing Committee recommends the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Interior and all security institutions to issue a statement pledging not to prosecute peaceful demonstrators and cancel any pledges they made regarding not participating in future demonstrations in implementation of the right to freedom of protest and peaceful assembly.



- The Report Writing Committee recommends the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior not to prosecute human rights and fundamental freedoms monitors working in the field, journalists and media workers who have carried out their moral duties and in accordance with the applicable local law.
- The Report Writing Committee expresses its deep concern (with respect to the applicable law) regarding the procedures for investigating violations and breaches committed by both parties and requests the Supreme Judicial Council to be more flexible regarding the confidentiality level of the preliminary investigation procedures and to ensure that trials are public in their final roles.
- The Report Writing Committee draws the attention of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, and the security services associated with the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces to the urgent need to initiate a broad institutional reform process to focus on training law enforcement officials to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially and guided by the Iraqi constitution, the applicable domestic law, and general related international law.

2. The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross

- The Report Writing Committee strongly recommends that the United Nations, in particular the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights, provide full technical support to all Iraqi law enforcement agencies with regard to their training to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ensuring this in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Iraq.
- The Report Writing Committee recommends that the Human Rights Council to direct the special rapporteurs and task forces that consider topics to the need for comprehensive briefing and request the Iraqi Government to organize visits to them as soon as possible.
- The Report Writing Committee recommends the High Commissioner Office (with emphasis) the need to train high-level human rights monitors and fundamental freedoms in the field in order to be able to carry out their duties and responsibilities as required.
- The Report Writing Committee proposes to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to include human rights and fundamental freedoms monitors in the field with the right to have the international protection emblem, due to the grave risks they face in the field that may directly threatening their lives.

"The report is over."