

Iraq: “We call upon friends and colleagues of the Iraqi civil society movement, on Iraqi NGOs, on civil activists from all over the world, to rise up together as advocates for humanity”

Wednesday 9 July 2014, by [Iraqi Social Forum](#) (Date first published: 9 July 2014).

A call from the Iraqi Social Forum to civil society groups and social movements inside and outside Iraq for positive and constructive social action

The National Committee of the Iraqi Social Forum

Baghdad 09/07/2014

Our country, Iraq, is suffering under the weight of a merciless attack which threatens our territorial integrity, seeds discord between the various sects of the Iraqi people, which cares not a bit for the safety of the people, and which shows a complete and utter disregard for the lives of Iraqis. The brutal and ongoing attack is forcing Iraqis to leave their jobs, their homes and their cities. It threatens to undermine and destroy the civil peace Iraq once had.

The preoccupations of Iraq's ruling class; their petty political disputes, their tireless grasping for authority, and their narrow concern to satisfy their own private interests, has blinded them to the horrors civilians are enduring, and allowed them effectively to ignore the cruelty of the ruthless attack that is crushing our civilian brothers and sisters in many areas throughout the country. Despite the eerie silence of much of the international community on the suffering of displaced Iraqis, despite the unprofessional, biased and partial reporting on the crisis by local and international media, we, the Iraqi people, are standing up to confront and overcome this devastating crisis. To this end, we call upon friends and colleagues of the Iraqi civil society movement, on Iraqi NGOs, on civil activists from all over the world, to rise up together and take on our responsibilities as advocates for humanity. We must act on our deep faith in the principle that: “life, food, security, housing and healthcare should be fundamental rights for all human beings”. This basic idea must be our starting point, as well as the conviction that military operations are not the only solution but should, whenever possible, be replaced with constructive political, social and economic solutions that respect the rights of all Iraqis. Only given this foundation will we achieve a lasting and unshakable peace.

We call up on you, wherever you are and with whatever capabilities you have, to organize demonstrations and other kinds of civil activities that advocate peaceful coexistence and the acceptance of ‘the other’. We must celebrate the idea that being different doesn't mean being an enemy. This has always been the way with Iraqis: different, but living peacefully together in all their rich diversity. This historical truth must be recognized and remembered, especially now when there are those who aim to seed discord and hatred among groups who can and have lived together peacefully.

To all those who want to join us, we suggest the following activities:

- Stand for solidarity: express solidarity with the Iraqi people and correct the distorted image that those in affected areas welcome the divisive and obstructive forces which are doing so much damage. The actions of a few loud individuals should not be generalized to all who now live in those areas.
- Hold meetings, seminars, or lectures: gather officials and influential community leaders to discuss ways to preserve the unity of the Iraqi people, and counteract the destructive calls to divide the country; develop an organized set of procedures which demonstrate ways to provide the essential aid needed by those who have been displaced.
- Launch a social media campaign which supports the flourishing cultural diversity in Iraq, which portrays the beautiful Iraqi capacity for peaceful coexistence; tell stories which celebrate the unity of the Iraqi people.
- Communicate with our displaced brothers and sisters, wherever they might be, recognize them as the legitimate subject for news; in short, confront and contradict the dishonest mainstream media.

Finally, we ask international organizations to circulate this call, and to organize synchronized activities in their own countries that correspond with those that will happen inside Iraq.

We ask you all to document your activities, and to publish them under #Iraqieen and send them to us for further dissemination.

For more information:

Please visit the ISF website: <http://iragsf.org/>

Or our page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/iraqisocialforum?ref_type=bookmark

Or call the following Numbers:

ISF secretarial: 2283 764 771 00964

ISF coordinator: 5201 268 770 00964

በመጀመሪያ ስራዎች ላይ ለሚሳተፉ ሰራተኞች ስራው ለማቆም የሚያስፈልጉትን ስራዎች ለማድረግ ማስታወሻ ማድረግ ይገባል፡፡

□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ (ISF)

2014-7-9 □□□□□

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

000000 00 00000000 00000000 000000 00 00000000 000000 000000 000000 00 0000 :00000000 000000
 000 00000000 0000 00 000000 00000000 0000 000000000 0000000 000000 000000 00 00000000000 00000000
 .00000000 000 000000

[illegible]

00000 000000 00 00000000 0000000 00000 00000 000000000000 00000000 000000 0000 00000000 00000 00000000
.00000000 00000 00000 00 00000 0000 000000.00000000 0000000000 00000000 000000000000

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

□□□□ □□□□ □□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□ □□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□.

--	--	--	--

□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□: <http://iragsf.org/>

□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□ □□□ □□□□□ □□:

https://www.facebook.com/iragisocialforum?ref_type=bookmark

□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□□ □□:

00964 771 764 2283 :□□□□□□ □□□□□□

00964 770 268 5201 :□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□

Visit Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative - http://icssi08.ning.com/?xq_source=msg_mes_network at:

