Jihad al-nikah and Slavery of Women in Iraq
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“Give your body to the opponents in Syria until you go to heaven!” The Saudi cleric Salafi issued this fatwa, a member of the Islamic sect called Jihad al-nikah in terrorist literature. According to a news agency quoted for information based on “Alyoum Alsamen,” witnesses stressed that in the province of Mosul, terrorists representing ISIS forced the wives and daughters of Mosul men to marry ISIS fighters. Humans in war use every possible means to suppress and undermine the other side. The ongoing war in Iraq is not an exception. Recently, militants have imposed "jihad marriage," in an effort to defame Muslims. Although non-Muslim combatants have been notorious for the undignified treatment of Muslims, Muslims are also notorious for doing the same thing to each other. This paper addresses the rights of women and the expression of their personalities, and the impact of recent ISIS activity leading women to be stripped of their social position and status.

Women are always victimized in or after battle. Kurdish women have been treated with special brutality due to the current perception of Islamic fighters. The perceptions of women held by these fighters stem from the body of Islamic law and consequent cultural assumptions about gender. Women belonging to groups that have lost in battle are considered trophies for the purpose of abuse. Their bodies are used as remuneration between victorious leaders and the soldiers serving under them. Specifically, Kurdish women have been repressed and treated violently under the Islamic state (ISIS). ISIS leaders have adopted the Islamic concept of Jihad al nikah (sex in the name of the struggle) and forced many women from all faiths to marry militant fighters. They have used falsified historical and legal arguments allegedly based in Islamic tradition and, in the name of this particular interpretation of Islam, are engaging in the most cruel and inhumane crimes. It is not men alone carrying out such a policy. Women in ISIS also help with the cause of Jihad al nikah. There are women in Iraq and the Iraqi diaspora who are responsible for attracting other women to join this terrorist group.

Violence against women is so universal that it is often unreported by news organizations. Women in Iraq today have become forced to survive by any means necessary. They have to live in a world of insecurity, increasing violence, religious fanaticism, and economic problems—without the expectation of it will ever improve. This article explores the

1 Alyoum Alsamen
connections between various forms of sexual violence in Iraq and the background of this most intimate and brutal manifestation of crimes.