## CONTENTS

## 7 | 1. Introduction

9	2.	Legal Framework
	2.1	International law
	2.2	National law10
13	3.	Reduced scope for non-Muslim minorities after 2003
	3.1	Drastic decline in the non-Muslim minorities' share of the population14
	3.2	Changes in Baghdad's religious power structure1
19	4.	Crucial for the future of Iraq: the recapture of Mosul
	4.1	Capture of Mosul by the IS in June 201420
	4.2	Capture of Yazidi settlements in Sinjar District by the IS in August 201420
	4.3	Capture of Christian settlements in the Nineveh Plains by the IS in August 20142
	4.4	Classification of the IS attacks on religious minorities as genocide23
	4.5	Campaign to retake Mosul23
27	5.	Territorial issues
	5.1	Referendum in accordance with Article 140 of the Iraqi constitution on the future status of "disputed areas"
	5.2	Autonomous regions for Christians, Yazidis and Turkmens in the Governorate of Ninawa?
	5.3	The Nineveh Plains Project
	5.4	Autonomy solution under Article 125 of the Iraqi constitution?
35	6.	Who guarantees the protection of the Christians, Yazidis and Turkmens?
	6.1	Betrayal of Christians by the Peshmerga on 23 June 2014 and 6 August 201436
	6.2	Betrayal of Yazidis by the Peshmerga on 3 August 201436
	6.3	Christian militias
	6.4	Yazidi militias40
47	7.	Other developments in the Nineveh Plains and the Sinjar region
	7.1	Looming conflict over the Christian settlements in the Nineveh Plains48
	7.2	Looming conflict over the Yazidi settlements in Sinjar and Shekhan districts48
	7.3	Looming conflict between the Peshmerga forces and the PKK in Sinjar District50
57 J	8.	Interests of the regional stakeholders Iran and Turkey
	8.1	Interests of Iran57
	8.2	Interests of Turkey58



## 71 | 9. Coexistence with other ethnic-religious groups

75	<ol><li>Prospects for a return of Christians and Yazidis to their original settlement areas</li></ol>	
	10.1 Migration movements in the country	75
	10.2 Prospects for a return of the Christians and Yazidis	75
	10.3 Smouldering conflicts	78
	10.4 Looming conflicts	79
	10.5 The prospects – summary	80
83	11. Appendix – Demographics in Iraq	
	11.1 Demographics: Christians in Iraq	84
	11.2 Demographics: Yazidis in Iraq	90
	11.3 Christian settlement areas	9
	11.4 Yazidi settlement areas	92
	11 5 Internally displaced persons / refugees	Q <sup>2</sup>