



Education under ISIS control in Mosul

Iraq - Nineveh
Governate

Mosul City

Education in Mosul under the Islamic State (ISIS)

2015-2016

For parents in Mosul - the northern Iraqi city controlled by the extremist group known as 'Islamic State', ISIS or Daesh - their worst dreams have come true. Since June 10th 2014, ISIS has occupied Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, and turned it into a key stronghold. Since then, ISIS has been trying to assume the role of the State, controlling the health, energy and education sectors by enforcing harsh laws on the people of the city.

ISIS has developed a new curriculum for school-aged children living inside the areas it controls.¹ It exercises control over the education sector via the so-called '*Diwan*' (office) of Education in the state of Nineveh² by radicalising the school curriculum. For example, subjects such as history, geography, literature, art and music have been withdrawn. In their place, a new curriculum of Sharia or Islamic law has been included in books (such as *The Doctrine of the Muslim, Fiqh or Islamic Jurisdiction*), fitness and physical education as well as *jihad* education for fourth and fifth graders, in a bid to 'brainwash' their young minds.

ISIS holds two types of education courses for these young people:³ Sharia education and military training (use of weapons and live ammunition, and urban fighting). Militants seek to recruit children by luring them with money, weapons and cars, and then urge them to join training camps, while using some of them as informers and guards.

ISIS disseminated CDs of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, where students are urged to print them out at their own expense, or buy them from any outlets that publish them as booklets. Students are forced to pay monthly school fees of 12,000 Iraqi Dinar

¹ [Global Campaign for Education edit] There are no accurate numbers on the children studying the ISIS educational system. Many families have been displaced due to ISIS.

² [GCE] Nineveh is the second largest governorate in Iraq and is composed of eight districts. Mosul is its chief city and the provincial capital. It is the only governorate still under ISIS control.

³ [GCE] The ISIS curriculum is taught by regular teachers who are threatened and forced to teach against their will. Those who refuse are usually punished physically or, for example, their houses are confiscated.

(IQD), or \$10, for primary school, 15,000 IQD (\$13) for middle school and 25,000 IQD (\$21.50) for secondary school.^{4,5}



The textbooks aimed at children aged 6-12 clearly promote the ideology of the Islamic Caliphate and religious extremism. For example, physical and *jihad* education books for six-year-olds are entitled '*The Islamic Caliphate is Remaining and Expanding*'. These two words – 'remain' and 'expand' – feature repeatedly and are significant: they form part of the slogan used by ISIS militants, which says that the 'Islamic State' will 'remain' (or continue) and 'expand'. Illustrations used in these books show children carrying weapons such as pistols and machine guns and dressed in clothes worn by ISIS militants.

Mathematics textbooks include exercises containing references to extreme violence and warfare. For example, arithmetic exercises ask students to calculate the number of explosives a factory can produce in a particular ISIS-controlled state or the number of Shi'ite Muslims or 'unbelievers' that can be killed by a car suicide-bomber. There are images of Kalashnikovs, and the plus sign (+) has been abolished as it's claimed it refers to the Christian cross.

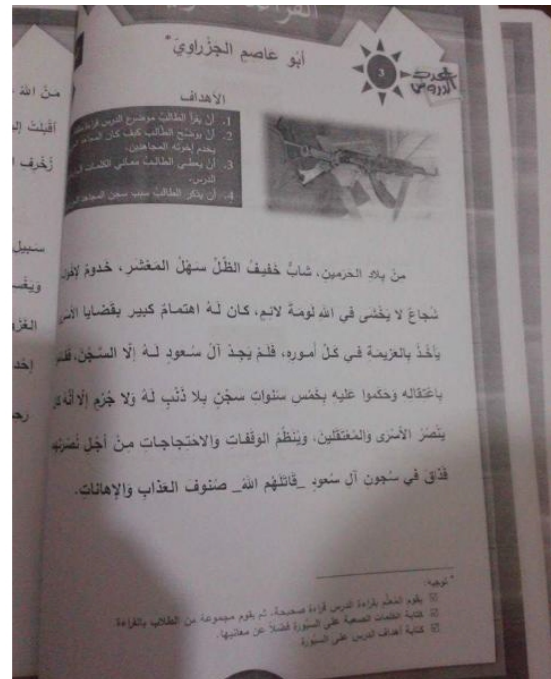
⁴ [GCE] ISIS still enforces fees on children in Mosul to attend schools.

⁵ [GCE] Education across all stages, including tertiary, is free in government-controlled Iraq.

History books have been replaced with biographies of ISIS leaders, full of ideas that ISIS seeks to implant in the minds of students and teenagers.

This curriculum⁶ incites violence and extremism, and has prompted parents in Mosul to refrain from sending their children to school - ISIS is seeking to radicalise them and entrench in their young minds a culture of violence, extremism and hostility that is contrary to the principle of humanity.

This will have a significant impact on the minds of children and adolescents and will lead to the emergence of a new radical, violent and bloody generation. Recruiting children under such circumstances is incompatible with the principles of divine religions and is considered a crime against humanity and a grave violation of children's rights.



Parents' worst nightmares have been realised: school learning materials have been deliberately destroyed and ISIS has developed an entirely new curriculum to serve its objectives and radicalise children. Parents are increasingly pessimistic about the future of their children, who have become the victims of an education system that is based on killing and extremism. As one parent said: *"I will not let them go to an ISIS-run school just so they*

⁶ [GCE] It has been difficult to obtain samples of the ISIS curriculum. However, examples can be viewed in the IID's more recent study, dated June 28th 2016 (available in English and Arabic).



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can learn about murder and extremism.” This means depriving more than 90% of students in Mosul of their right to education.

The Iraqi Institution for Development (IID)

About: IID is a non-governmental, non-profit independent institution founded in 2003 by a group of young Iraqis from different cultural and religious backgrounds in Mosul. We conduct studies and human-rights training, consulting and peace-building and disseminate the principles of freedom of expression without discrimination on the basis of religion, sex and creed.

Mission: We aspire to create a society that respects human rights, democracy and dialogue through cultural and political change in Iraq and turn it into a participatory system that includes all social groups, using non-violence in demanding their rights and work to build relationships between individuals and groups that support these principles.

Objectives:

- Consolidate human rights in Iraq.
- Promote the culture of peace and tolerance In Iraq.
- Promote democracy and respect.
- Bridge the gaps between NGOs in Nineveh, in terms of sharing information and capabilities to achieve their goals.