



EUROPEAN UNION

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Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent attacks in Iraq

The spokesperson of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative condemns in the strongest terms the latest series of attacks in a number of Iraqi cities, including in Iraq's disputed territories. Dozens of innocent civilians have died and many more have been injured. She expresses her deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

The High Representative hopes that such senseless use of violence will not aggravate the existing tensions in the disputed territories and remains confident that the Iraqi people will remain steadfast in their continued rejection of attempts by extremists to undermine the security and the stability of Iraq. She reiterates her call on the Government and all Iraqi political leaders to engage in an inclusive and genuine dialogue to address political differences, including with respect to the 'disputed territories'. Ensuring effective and inclusive governance in all of Iraq, underpinned by the rule of law, stands the best chance to ultimately defy the continuing violence."

P R E S S

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