

Delegation for relations with Iraq

Statement by Sara Skyttedal, Chair of the EP's Delegation for relations with Iraq, on the recent terrorist attacks in Northern Iraq

7 September 2021

Ms [Sara Skyttedal](#), acting Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, deplores the recent terrorist attacks in Northern Iraq.

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, I express, together with my colleagues, our heartfelt condolences to the Government of Iraq and to the families of all those who have suffered losses and injury in the recent terrorist attack in Kirkuk.

The Delegation for relations with Iraq, once again, condemns all incitement and acts of violence, in particular those triggered by religious, ethnic or social prejudice and hatred. It highlights the cruelty of this indiscriminate and unacceptable attack and expresses its confidence that the terrorists will not achieve their goals and that the people of Iraq will remain united in its resolute rejection of the attempts made by extremists of different groups and parties to destabilise their country by sparking sectarian tensions.

The Delegation for relations with Iraq reaffirms its lasting support to the Iraqi government and the regional government of Kurdistan in their continued fight against terrorism, including against the Islamic State. The Delegation calls on the European Union and its Member States to streamline their assistance to Iraq in the field of security and protection of fundamental human and civil rights, especially in view of the forthcoming elections of 10 October 2021.

Background

On 4 September 2021, Islamic State militants killed at least 12 Iraqi police officers and wounded several more in an overnight attack at an outpost near the city of Rashad, 30 km southwest of northern city of Kirkuk. Separately, at least another three Iraqi soldiers were killed and one was wounded when gunmen attacked an army checkpoint southeast of the Iraqi city of Mosul.

The recent attacks of Kirkuk and Mosul reinforce concerns that the Islamic State, after having been defeated on the ground by an international coalition, is once again expanding its activities in Iraq and Syria and may well endanger the process of reconstruction of Iraq and exposing its citizens to a new wave of violence and abuses.

This outbreak of violence may also be part of a wider strategy aiming at undermining the organisation of general elections, due to take place in October this year, that are critical for the democratic future of Iraq.

For further information contact:

Office of Ms Sara SKYTTEDAL. Tel.: +32 284 52 41

E-mail: Sara.Skyttedal@europarl.europa.eu

EP's Delegation for relations with Iraq. Tel.: +32 2 284 36 88

E-mail: D-IRQ@europarl.europa.eu