

Delegation for relations with Iraq

Statement by Sara Skyttedal, Chair of the EP's Delegation for relations with Iraq, on the recent terrorist attack against the residence of Prime Minister al-Kadhimi

9 November 2021

Ms <u>Sara Skyttedal</u>, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, deplores the recent terrorist against the residence of Prime Minister al-Kadhimi.

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, I strongly and unconditionally condemn the terrorist attack on 7 November 2021 which targeted the residence of Iraqi Prime Minister al-Kadhimi in Baghdad. I am personally relieved that the Prime Minister was not hit as a result of the attack. I also wish a prompt recovery to those who were injured.

I appreciate the Prime Minister's "call for calm and restraint on the part of everyone for the good of Iraq" following an action which was aimed to ignite a dangerous escalation with the clear intention of derailing the country's process of stabilisation.

The EP delegation for relations with Iraq stands with the Iraqi government and the people of Iraq in their rejection of all kinds of political and sectarian violence. The EP delegation for relations with Iraq reiterates its lasting support for the on-going democratic process in Iraq aimed at building a stronger and more stable, developed and inclusive country.

The EP delegation for relations with Iraq calls on the European Union and its Member States to make available all appropriate support and assistance to Iraq's government especially with regards to ensuring security in the country and its fight against terrorism.

Background

On 7 November 2021, the residence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi was targeted in a drone attack. The strike has been described as an assassination attempt. While the Iraqi Prime Minister was unscathed, six members of his personal protection force stationed outside his residence in the Bagdad's Green Zone were wounded. This act of terrorism was clearly intended to destabilised the country after that general elections, a key test for Iraq's democratic system, were held in a peaceful and well-organised manner.

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