

Delegation for relations with Iraq

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

2 December 2021

Ms [Sara Skyttedal](#), Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, condemns the recent ISIS attack in Northern Iraq in which five Peshmerga members were killed.

On behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Iraq, I express, together with my colleagues, our heartfelt condolences to the Regional Government of Kurdistan and to the families of all those who were killed or injured in the recent terrorist attack in Diyala.

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 need by all Iraqi democratic forces to unite in their efforts to prevent any resurgence of the so-called Islamic State, which, during its short but brutal rule, brought about unspeakable suffering upon countless victims from among the peoples of Iraq and Syria.

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, in particular against the so-called Islamic State. The Delegation reiterates its call on the European Union and its Member States to streamline their assistance to Iraq in the field of security as well as in protection of fundamental human and civil rights.

Background

On 27 November 2021, Islamic State militants killed five Peshmerga security officers and wounded four more in an attack against a military convoy in the Diyala province. Earlier this month, ISIS claimed responsibility for another attack in which two Peshmerga were killed. ISIS also attacked Peshmerga forces on the Kifri-Garmaser border between Sulaimani and Diyala provinces in November 2021.

The recent terrorist attacks 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 to undermine the result of general elections that took place in October 2021 and the gradual democracy building process in Iraq.

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