



10.10.2013

Draft Resolution on Recent violence in Iraq

Recent violence in Iraq

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iraq, notably its resolutions of 14 March 2013 on the plight of minority groups, in particular the Iraqi Turkmen;
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Iraq, of the other part, and to its resolution of 17 January 2013 on the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement⁽³⁾;
- having regard to the Commission's Joint Strategy Paper for Iraq (2011-2013);
- having regard to the 'Human Rights Report on Human Rights in Iraq: January to June 2012', presented jointly by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and the Commission on 19 December 2012,
- having regard to the International Crisis Group Middle East Report N°144, 14 Aug 2013 "Make or Break: Iraq's Sunnis and the State";
- having regard to the UN Release of Casualty Figures for September, in 1 October 2013;
- having regard to the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon statement to urge leaders to pull Iraq 'back from the brink', from 29 July 2013;
- having regard to the statement on 1 September by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the tragic events in Camp Ashraf which left 52 people killed;
- having regard to the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief;
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, to which Iraq is a party;
- having regard to Rules 122(5) and 110(4) of its Rules of Procedure;
- having regard to the statement of 5 September 2013 by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent violence in Iraq .

A. whereas Iraq continues to face serious political, security and socio-economic challenges, and whereas the political scene in the country is extremely fragmented and plagued by violence and sectarian politics, to the severe detriment of the legitimate aspirations of the Iraqi people for peace, prosperity and a genuine transition to democracy;

B. whereas, according to casualty figures released by UNAMI, a total of 979 Iraqis were killed and another 2,133 were wounded in acts of terrorism and violence in September; whereas, Baghdad was the worst-affected governorate in September, with 1,429 civilian casualties (418 killed and 1011 injured), followed by Ninewa, Diyala, Salahuddin and Anbar. Kirkuk, Erbil, Babil, Wasit, Dhi-Qar and Basra also reported casualties;

C. whereas, the impact of violence on civilians remains disturbingly high and growing, with up to 5 000 civilians killed and up to 10 000 injured since the beginning of 2013 which is the highest number in the last 5 years;

D. Whereas the social and economic plight - widespread poverty, high unemployment, economic stagnation, environmental degradation and lack of basic public services - continues to affect a large part of the population; whereas numbers of peaceful demonstrations

demanding more social, economic and political rights continue to result in a very systematic repression by the security forces and with impunity;

E. whereas the Iraqi Constitution guarantees equality before the law for all its citizens and the "administrative, political, cultural and educational rights of the various nationalities";

F. whereas the EU-Iraq agreement, and in particular its human rights clause, emphasises that the EU-Iraqi political dialogue should focus on human rights and strengthening democratic institutions;

1. Strongly condemns the acts of terrorism and the heightened sectarian violence, which carries the danger that the country falls back into sectarian strife and generates fears of wider sectarian conflict across the region; points out that although violence occurs along sectarian lines its causes are rather political than religious;

2. Extends its condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and injured;

3. Condemns the recent attacks of: 3 September 2013 with at least 60 killed in mainly Shia districts of Baghdad; 15 September with more than 40 killed in blasts across Iraq mostly targeting Shia areas; 21 September with at least 60 killed in funeral in Sadr City, Baghdad; 30 September with at least 54 killed by car bomb blasts in mainly Shia areas of Baghdad; 5 October with at least 51 killed and more than 70 people injured in Baghdad by suicide bomber in Shi'a pilgrims in al-Adhamiya district; same day another suicide bomber struck a café in Balad, north of Baghdad, killing at least 12 people and wounding at least 25 others; 6 October with at least 12 children aged between six and 12 were killed and many injured by a suicide bomber next to a primary school in the Shi'a Turkmen village of Qabak; 7 October In the latest attacks at least 22 people were killed today in a fresh wave of explosions in Baghdad; 8 October with at least 9 killed in the car bomb in Baghdad and attacks on security forces in the north of the country;

4. Strongly condemns the attack on Camp Ashraf of 1 September 2013 by Iraqi forces, in which 52 Iranian refugees were killed, and 7 residents abducted, including 6 women who, as stated by Vice-President / High Representative Catherine Ashton, are believed to be held in Baghdad, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release; expresses its support for the work of the UNAMI, which is trying to relocate the 3 000 or so residents outside of Iraq;

5 Expresses its grave concern over the new surge of instability and calls on all Iraqi political leaders, from all ethnic and religious backgrounds, to work together to put an end to sectarian violence and distrust and bring the Iraqi people together;

6. Calls on both the government of Iraq and the regional governments to condemn the attacks and to facilitate a full and swift independent international investigation into the recent terrorist attacks in the region, and calls on the Iraqi government to fully cooperate with that probe to bring those responsible to justice;

7. Is concerned about the spill-over of violence from the conflict in Syria to Iraq, where jihadist rebels linked to the Islamic State of Iraq, a Sunni militant umbrella group that includes al-Qaeda, have risen to prominence;

8. Calls urgently on the political, religious and civil leaders as well as the security services to start to work together to end the bloodshed and ensure that all Iraqi citizens feel equally protected;

9. Calls on the Iraqi government and on all political leaders to take the necessary measures to provide security and protection for all people in Iraq—and members of vulnerable minorities in particular; calls on the government to ensure that the security forces respect the rule of law and international standards;

10. Calls on the International Community and the EU to support the Iraqi Government by promoting initiatives for national dialogue, the consolidation of rule of law and the provision of basic services, with the goal of creating a secure, stable, unified prosperous and democratic Iraq, where the human and political rights of all people in Iraq are protected

11. Given that the security situation has exacerbated problems for more vulnerable groups like women, youth or fundamental rights activists like trade unionists, calls on the Iraqi authorities to take urgent action to funnel greater resources towards programmes to improve the situation

12. Encourages religious dialogue between Sunni and Shia clerics as a necessary tool of conflict resolution; considers that the recent talks between the U.S. and Iran is also an opportunity for Iraq to act as a bridge, as one of the few countries to have strong relations with both; calls Iranian leaders to engage constructively in the stabilization of the region;

13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Council of Representatives of Iraq, the Regional Government of Kurdistan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Council.