



**Statement of the
Republic of Iraq
To the Security Council
On
Protection of Civilians in Armed
Conflicts**

**Delivered by
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United Nations
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Madam Chairperson,

Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation to you for holding this important session to discuss a sensitive issue related to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. My delegation has examined the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" in document S/2005/740 and we agree with the Secretary-General in stressing the importance of the international community's commitment to better address the tragic plight of civilians living in situations of armed conflict and that we should take stock of developments, assess the collective achievements that have been made and reflect on those areas where action remains inadequate.

While we appreciate the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report which concentrates on the protection of civilians including measures to be adopted by the concerned parties to the conflict and the international community, however, we believe that addressing the factors conducive to armed conflicts should receive a similar or even greater consideration. Addressing these factors would prevent the eruption of armed conflict. One of the most important means to prevent the emergence of armed conflicts lies in our capacity to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, respect and protect human rights, enhance political dialogue, and promote the principle of tolerance and national reconciliation. We hope that the Peace building Commission would play its vital role in this regard.

The report of the Secretary-General refers to Iraq and we would like to highlight the suffering of the innocent civilians in Iraq. We have to recognize that Iraq has become one

of the main fronts to combat terrorism. Regardless of the reasons behind terrorist operations in Iraq: the common factor in the majority of these operations is that the victims are innocent civilians. The terrorist operations have started to take a more destructive and dangerous approach by targeting people in an attempt to provoke a civil war in Iraq.

The terrorist acts that are taking place in Iraq have reached a level that can not be justified or accepted under any season or pretext. The number of victims of violence and terrorism during the last 5 months has mounted to more than 6000 civilian deaths from different parts of society. Violence and terrorism have also targeted the infrastructure, water and power supplies, hospitals, oil pipelines, UN staff and diplomatic personnel, women and children, doctors and engineers, bakers, and the retired civil servants who were murdered in a terrorist act that targeted them while they were gathering to receive their retirement pension recently in the Basra province.

The brutality of the terrorist operations perpetuated by terrorists in Iraq has led the Security Council to issue resolution number 1618 (2005) in which it strongly condemned terrorist operations in Iraq including the killing of more than 32 children in one suicide terrorist act which was considered as a threat to international peace and security. It also strongly urged all member-states to prevent the transit of terrorists to and from Iraq, arms for terrorists, and financing that would support terrorists. It also emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation among all countries in the region especially the neighbouring countries to Iraq. It is not possible for a single state to confront terrorism on its own, and this applies to Iraq more than to any other country. While, we realize the

importance of international cooperation to combat terrorism, however, regional cooperation remains the corner stone to eliminating this phenomenon.

Madam Chairperson,

As you know, Iraq has set some strategic goals to stop violence and defeat the terrorists following the formation of its constitutionally elected government for a full four-year mandate. As a good-will initiative, the government has recently released 2500 detainees for whom there was no proof of their involvement in committing crimes. The government has also presented a reconciliation plan consisting of 24 articles in which it offers an olive branch to all Iraqi people to peacefully participate in the political process, abandon violence, and to start building and reconstructing the country. The plan also includes an amnesty to all those who are not involved in terrorist acts or committed crimes against humanity or war crimes. It also includes the prohibition of committing human rights violations, the punishment of those involved in torturing detainees, and it allows for international organizations to visit Iraqi prisons and check upon the condition of the prisoners. Moreover, the internally displaced people are to return to their areas and the government, in cooperation with the security forces, will assume responsibility for their protection from terrorists and insurgents and compensate them for the damages they suffered. This question of the displaced people is currently under discussion in the Iraqi Council of Representatives in an attempt to find an appropriate solution for it. Furthermore, in its continued efforts to unify the Iraqi people to live peacefully in a democratic, unified, and federal Iraq, the government is also making preparations to host

a national reconciliation conference under the auspices of the Arab League in August of this year.

While the aforementioned measures will contribute to the prevention of violence and terrorism in Iraq, they are also to constitute the main pillars of the government's plan to eliminate the suffering of the civilians who are the main victims of acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.