

Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq on the brutal attack on the headquarters of the Ministry

On the 19th of August 2009 the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were target of a horrific terrorist attack, as part of an organized plot aimed at important institutions of the sovereign state, which caused many deads and injured. This criminal attack came at a time where the international community is recalling the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attack on the UN mission in Baghdad, killing UN envoy Sergio Vieira Dmillo and many of the staff of the mission.

It should be noted that this was not the first time that an attempt to attack the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was planned, but these plots where prevented. These attempts and terrorist attacks are mainly aimed to undermine the foundations of the political process, impairing the ability of the Iraqi state to reestablish its place in the international community by gaining its responsibility as an active member, as well as for the return of normalcy to the people of Iraq. During the past years the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed its main tasks, especially the establishment of the sovereignty of a new Iraq in the International System, by expressing a clear voice in the international fora, which emphasized the independence and sovereignty of Iraqi decisions and the legitimacy of its existing political system, which is based on democratic foundations and derived from the will of the people after more than three decades of dictatorship and a totalitarian regime.

The ministry has made its utmost efforts to continue endeavours to make Iraq a reliable partner within its Arab, regional and international environment, evident through the reopening of many diplomatic missions in Baghdad and the reopening of many Iraqi missions abroad. Furthermore by the welcoming of Head of States and Governments and Foreign Ministers of a number of Arab and foreign countries to Iraq and in return, visits to these States by their Iraqi counterparts. Another important endeavour of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the pursuit of liberating Iraq from the restrictions and limitations inherited by the former regime of Iraq and hence Chapter VII that affects the sovereignty of Iraq.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs mourns the martyrs, our finest young men and women from the ministry and the others from various spectra of the Iraqi people who have let their blood while pursuing their professional and national duties – taken by the coward hands of treachery and atrocity. We ask God Almighty to grant their souls peace and bless their families with patience and fortitude, and to heal the wounded.

This criminal attack will not stop us from performing our duties to move on - in fact it will increase our determination and insistence on the healing of our wounds and to serve the Iraqi people by defending their just causes, foremost living in peace and stability to build the new democratic Iraq.

Mercy and salvation for our Martyrs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 20, 2009