



URGENT ACTION FOR IRAQ'S VULNERABLE COMPONENTS NEEDED

Brussels, 12 June 2014 - Following the alarming security circumstances in Mosul, the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations Organization (UNPO) draws attention to the situation of Iraq's civilians and vulnerable components, and calls for immediate action.

On 6 June 2014 deadly clashes started in Mosul when vital areas of the city came under the control of jihadist militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL). Crucial areas of the second largest city of Iraq, including the provincial government's administrative building, were overrun by hundreds of armed men with heavy weaponry. As the assault turned into a rout, security forces also left their positions, leaving the citizens in complete danger and vulnerability. All of Nineveh Province fell under control of the militants and 500,000 people are believed to have left their homeland due to the serious threats to their security. According to the recent reports; militants seized the Turkish Consulate in Mosul, kidnapped the head and the staff members of the diplomatic mission and now managed to expand their control over the Salaheddin province capital, Tikrit. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has asked [the newly elected Parliament](#) to declare a state of emergency in the country and the US to carry out air strikes against the fighters of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL).

As the most diverse region in Iraq that hosts many different components, the seizure of Nineveh province is alarming and must be regarded as a matter of utmost urgency. Minority groups in Iraq, especially Christian and other non-Arab components, including Turkmen, tend to be easy targets of attacks and retaliations. Reportedly two Turkmen were already killed by ISIS/ISIL in the villages which were seized on Wednesday.

The international community should not only recognize the severity of the situation, but pay special attention to the vulnerable components of Iraqi society, such as ethnic and religious minorities, women and children, who will be disproportionately affected by the recent event. Considering the ongoing conflict in Syria, the security situation of the entire region is at stake, and all possible efforts should be made to protect civilians and to avoid further escalation.

In this context, UNPO urges the Iraqi government to ensure that *all* citizens, including ethnic and religious minority components and other vulnerable groups, are adequately protected. The sectarian insurgency plaguing the country and region should furthermore be addressed and controlled by the authorities as urgently as possible.

Marino Busdaschin
UNPO Secretary General

For media queries please contact Maud Vanwalleghem via telephone at +32 251 314 59 or email at mv@unpo.org

UNPO Advocacy Office

Avenue Louise 52 – Brussels 1050 – Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)251 31459 – Fax: +32 (0)251 31495 – Email: unpo.brussels@unpo.org

UNPO Head Office

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 – 2517 AN, The Hague – The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)70 3646504 – Fax: +31 (0)70 3646608 – Email: unpo@unpo.org

