

PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations ... and, with reference to the [Secretary-General's] communication LA/COD/4, dated 12 January 2011, has the honour to convey the comments of the competent Iraqi authorities concerning General Assembly resolution 65/30, paragraphs 10, 12 and 13.

...

1. Taking advantage of the weakness of the security services, which were being reorganized in 2003, 2005 and 2006, terrorists carried out closely spaced successive attacks against the premises of diplomatic missions and their staff.
2. Examples of those attacks include car bombings, the abduction of some ambassadors and the firing of shots at diplomatic motorcades in 2003, 2005-2007 and 2010.
3. The security forces of the Ministry of the Interior were restructured, with a view to creating a force that is suited to fulfilling its primary responsibility, namely, protecting the premises of diplomatic missions and ensuring the safety of mission staff as they move outside their missions' premises.
4. After the overall restructuring of the security forces, including the police directorate responsible for the protection of diplomatic premises, had been completed, a number of measures were taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. No security breaches have occurred and terrorists have not been allowed to threaten or attack the premises of any diplomatic mission or international organization in Baghdad.
5. A number of measures were taken to prevent the recurrence of such attacks, including addressing security deficiencies and intensifying the intelligence-gathering activities of the security services, in order to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, and prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

...

6. Leaders of terrorist organizations were captured throughout Iraq, and significant progress has been made towards achieving security in most regions of the country.

7. Measures were taken ensure that persons who attack the premises of diplomatic missions are brought to justice and given severe sentences, in accordance with the laws on countering terrorism and organized crime.

8. Terrorism is a global scourge and Iraq continues to do everything in its power fulfil its counter-terrorism obligations. Iraq has suffered great loss of life and equipment in thwarting terrorist attacks and protecting Arab and foreign diplomatic missions and staff.

9. Despite that, Iraq still requires the cooperation of the international community, whether by providing information, engaging in security cooperation or providing Iraq with the advanced technical equipment, weapons, logistical support and training it needs to support its counter-terrorism efforts.

10. One of the primary reasons that such attacks have occurred is the non-compliance of diplomatic missions with the instructions and recommendations issued by the security forces and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, diplomatic missions are not taking the measures required to prevent attacks.

11. Diplomatic premises are being used in a manner that is incompatible with their functions.

12. The Iraqi authorities stress the importance of General Assembly resolution 35/168, dated 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly recognizes the important role that enhancing the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives plays in preserving high-level diplomatic relations between States and peoples. In that connection, the Republic of Iraq takes responsibility for the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives who are in Iraqi territory in an official capacity.

13. Practical measure have been taken to prevent in Iraq the illegal activities of persons, groups or entities that organize, instigate or encourage the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of diplomatic missions.

14. The Iraqi authorities emphasize that diplomatic and consular missions and representatives should comply fully with the guide provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They must also prevent any abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities, particularly abuses involving acts of violence.

15. The perpetrators of such crimes are pursued and thoroughly investigated and their crimes are made public after they have been brought to justice.

16. The authorities stress the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Iraqi security and intelligences services, on the one hand, and States having diplomatic representation in Iraq, on the other hand, with regard to security measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions, as well as with regard to exchange of information concerning serious violations that have occurred or are anticipated.

17. Diplomatic missions should provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with detailed information regarding the measures they take when the perpetrators of serious violations take refuge in their countries. They should also inform Iraq of any developments with regard to the aforementioned measures, as well as with regard to measures taken to prevent such violations.

...

...

New York, 5 April 2011