

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations

PRCL/2009/198

7 July 2009

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General and, with reference to the note of the Secretary-General No. LA/COD/2 dated 31 December 2008, has the honour to set forth below the comments of the Government of Iraq on the status of the Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict:

1. Iraq acceded to the first additional Protocol by Law No. 85 of 2001.
2. A working agreement was concluded with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that empowered ICRC, with the coordination and cooperation of the Ministry of Human Rights, to carry out its mandate, in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Protocols, to follow up the humanitarian file relating to prisoners, missing persons and the remains of war victims through a number of committees that were established by the Tripartite Commission which was constituted on 8 March 1991. One adjunct to the Commission was the Technical Subcommittee, the members of which include, in addition to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
3. Two further committees were established concerning relations with Iran, namely, the Prisoners and Missing Persons Committee, which is a joint Iraq-Iran committee, and the joint Iraq-Iran technical committee that seeks the remains of war victims. Those committees

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operated up until 2003, after which two memorandums of understanding were concluded. The first, that was signed on 11 June 2008 by Iraq and ICRC, concerned follow-up to the Iraqi and Iranian prisoners file. The second, concluded by Iraq, Iran and ICRC, was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 October 2008, and concerned oversight of the work of the subcommittees.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

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