

Comments of Iraq on the agenda item “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives” before the Sixth Committee

Sir, Madam,

We wish to list below some security breaches of Iraqi missions around the world.

1. Embassy of Iraq in Seoul

- No security has been provided for the building and residence of the Iraqi ambassador in Seoul.
- Diplomats have been subjected to a full body search in airports of the Republic of Korea.
- The VIP hall is opened to the ambassador only for the first arrival and final departure.
- Fines are imposed on cars of the embassy and diplomatic staff.

2. Embassy of Iraq in London

- On 17 October 2017, the Embassy was attacked by a group of demonstrators, who caused material damage to the building. A memorandum was then addressed to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom. Several meetings were held with Alistair Burt, who was Minister of State with responsibility for the Middle East at the time, and with the diplomatic police of the United Kingdom, who were provided with video recordings and photographs of the attacks so that the attackers could be caught. To date, however, they have not been able to apprehend the perpetrators. Iraqi mission staff in London called the police when the attack began, but the police responded belatedly, giving the attackers enough time to storm the outer door of the embassy. United Kingdom diplomatic police was repeatedly asked to provide permanent protection for the building when demonstrations are taking place, but the United Kingdom side has stated several times that it does not have enough resources to provide continuous protection at times when there are active demonstrations. Moreover, the Iraqi embassy is classified as threat level 3. Levels 1 and 2 are given police protection continuously or during office hours; but level 3 embassies are attended by the police only as needed, once a call has been placed on the hotline.

3. Consulate-General of Iraq in Detroit

- An individual called Al-Khalidi Haydar Rashid attempted to set fire to the consular building. The Consulate-General has called on the competent United States authorities to increase and intensify protection of the consular building.

4. Embassy of Iraq in Tunis

- A Tunisian national posed as an Iraqi national to enter the Iraqi Embassy building. Another individual photographed the building.

5. Consulate-General of Iraq in Frankfurt

- A group of demonstrators attacked the consular building and burned the Iraqi flag. The German judicial authorities then informed the Consulate that the case had been closed because the attackers had not been identified. The competent German authorities do not

provide continuous protection for the consular building or the Consul-General's residence, but the German police regularly patrols the perimeter of the mission and residence.

6. Embassy of Iraq in Tehran and consulates-general in the Islamic Republic of Iran

- On 18 April 2019, at Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps carried out a body search on the Iraqi ambassador, Rajih al-Musawi.
- On 18 December 2018, the Deputy Consul of Iraq in Mashhad, and the Republic of Iraq, were verbally assaulted in full view of the Iranian diplomatic police. The attacker said that he had obtained his personal phone number from the competent Iranian authorities.
- On 17 November 2019, an unidentified group broke into the home of an Iranian consular official in the Iranian city of Mashhad while he was out, ransacked the home and took his personal phone.
- A group of Iranian youths assaulted an Iraqi consular official and his family in the Iranian city of Kermanshah, addressing him with Arabic profanities.
- On 15 September 2019, Iranian consular officials in the Iranian city of Ahvaz beat an Iraqi consular official and threatened him with a knife.
- On 25 April 2018, a diplomatic official at the Iraqi Consulate in Ahvaz was beaten.
- The Iraqi Consul in Ahvaz has been subjected to constant and unprovoked harassment.
- The Iranian telecommunications company disconnected the telephones of Iraqi consular officials in Ahvaz.
- Protection of the Iraqi consular building in Ahvaz has not been strengthened, despite many encroachments on the building and its staff, and despite formal requests to that effect.
- On 25 June 2019, without provocation, four traffic police officers in Ahvaz attacked an Iraqi diplomatic official driving in an Iraqi mission car and attempted to remove its diplomatic number plates.

Accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.