Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on protests in Iraq

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton has been closely following the events taking place in Iraq. Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of any democratic society. The EU High Representative welcomes that this view is shared by political leaders in Iraq.

The EU High Representative urges all Iraqi authorities to exercise utmost restraint during the ongoing demonstrations and to take adequate measures to ensure the safety of protestors. She wishes to express her sorrow over the loss of human lives during the events in Sulaymaniah and Al Kut and extend her condolences to the bereaved families. The concerns expressed by the Iraqi people should be resolved through the political and democratic process, without recourse to the use of force."

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