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S T A T E M E N T

On the deterioration of the situation in Iraq

"We strongly condemn the latest attacks by the so called "Islamic State" (IS) and other armed groups in Iraq. We are appalled by the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation with hundreds of thousands civilians, mainly from minorities, fleeing the areas of conflict as a result of persecution and violation of basic human rights. Some of these acts may constitute crimes against humanity and must be investigated swiftly, so that the perpetrators are held accountable.

The EU and its Member States are providing urgent humanitarian aid to the civilian population, together with other international partners, directly and through UN agencies and non-governmental organisations. We call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law, ensure humanitarian access and facilitate the delivery of assistance."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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