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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the situation in northern Iraq

"We are deeply concerned by the humanitarian and security consequences of the ISIL assaults on the town of Sinjar and Zumar and surrounding provinces, as well as by the reports of further clashes in other areas. We strongly condemn ISIL terrorist actions, including the killing and kidnapping of innocent civilians.

We are particularly preoccupied by the fate of up to 200,000 people from the mainly Shi'a Yezidi town of Sinjar who have fled into the surrounding countryside, and are reportedly surrounded by ISIL fighters in a dire humanitarian situation.

We call on the Government of Iraq and the Government of the Kurdistan Region (KRG) to urgently restore their security cooperation in order to confront ISIL. We commend the KRG for its efforts so far to facilitate humanitarian assistance and encourage it to keep its borders open to displaced Iraqi citizens. The Iraqi and Kurdistan region's authorities, civil society and international partners should make every effort to facilitate the delivery of life saving humanitarian assistance to all those in need."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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