

## International Protection response to asylum-seekers from Iraq

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1. UNHCR is currently conducting a review of the situation in Iraq. The HC's Special Envoy to Iraq, Mr. Dennis McNamara, has had the opportunity during his recent mission to Central and Northern Iraq to analyse the complex and difficult overall situation prevailing in the country. While the situation may vary from one part of Iraq to another, his preliminary findings suggest a highly volatile and dangerous security environment in many parts of the country, including a high incidence of violent crimes, preventing the resumption of normal life. They also highlight the dependency of large parts of the population on food and other assistance for their survival, the absence of functioning legal and judicial structures in much of Iraq, and a complex situation related to land and property rights throughout the country.
2. The Special Envoy has recently returned to Iraq, *inter alia*, to assess the situation in the South of the country. He is expected back at Headquarters in early July. On the basis of the Special Envoy's findings, UNHCR will review its position regarding temporary protection and the suspension of decisions on asylum claims and will inform Governments accordingly in the second half of July.
3. It has therefore been decided, pending the finalisation of the aforementioned review, to maintain UNHCR's earlier advisory requesting a deportation ban to Iraq and, where necessary and appropriate, the provision of temporary protection, as well as the suspension of decisions on asylum claims.