

**U.S. Statement at the UPR of Iraq, 20<sup>th</sup> Session, November 3, 2014**

The United States warmly welcomes the Iraqi delegation.

54

The human rights situation in Iraq is dire. ISIL's brutal atrocities against the Iraqi people and the resulting humanitarian crisis are deplorable. As the Iraqi people and the international community unite against ISIL, the new Iraqi government must bear in mind its continuing responsibilities to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and to address past violations and abuses that have contributed to sectarian strife.

We commend Iraq for the positive steps that it has taken to improve Human Rights in Iraq, including calling a Special Session of the HRC in September, and passing a comprehensive National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

We recommend that Iraq:

1. Strengthen command and control mechanisms in its military and other security forces and eliminate the presence of militia and other non-governmental armed groups;
2. Implement its recently enacted National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, and in the ongoing conflict with ISIL, take measures to promote the protection of women, including those who are held captive by ISIL;
3. Reform judicial practices under its antiterrorism law, so that the law cannot be used as a pretext for sweeping arrests without warrants and lengthy detentions without trial, in violation of due process rights.

Ambassador Keith Harper