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SHEARER, UNAMI AMMAN (COMCEN, NY please relay)

FROM: DE MISTURCA, UNAMI, BAGHDAD

DATE: 15 DECEMBER 2007

NUMBER: CZX- 295

SUBJECT: Erbil - Security Measures

1. Thank you for your CZX 251 of 11 December 2007, seeking my confirmation that all short- and medium-term measures have been taken to mitigate against potential threats to the UN compound in Erbil, including standoff distance. You also asked to be advised of the deployment plans of SSU staff to support the ceiling increase.

2. I wish to inform you that all of the short- and medium-term measures recommended in the Interagency Assessment Mission report of 31 July 2007 have been or are presently being implemented. An updated copy of the matrix reflecting the progress of the implementation of these measures has been provided to you by encrypted e-mail to Mr. Bernhard Collins (DSS).

3. Of particular concern is our effort to increase the standoff distance from the accommodation containers to the nearest point at which a vehicle borne explosive device could be detonated. In this regard, I have written to the KRG Minister of the Interior requesting that the KRG expedite the construction of a crash barrier around the perimeter of the compound (a copy of this correspondence is attached for ease of reference). Once this barrier is installed the minimum standoff to the nearest container will be increased from 62 to 77 meters. I have also instructed the UNAMI Chief Administrative Officer to initiate, on an urgent basis, the procurement process so that UNAMI can construct the barrier should there be any KRG delay in this project. Notwithstanding the increased standoff, it is assessed that the probability of a vehicle borne explosive attack on the compound is moderately likely, with the impact of such an attack being critical in terms of death or injury to staff members, with a resulting risk of medium which is within the accepted level of risk for operations in Iraq.

4. I have instructed the Chief Security Advisor, Mr. Graeme Membrey, to immediately travel to Erbil today to review all security arrangements in place and to make any additional recommendations that might be necessary to ensure the continued security of the Erbil compound. Although our sensing is that the present number of SSU security officers in Erbil is adequate to support the increase in ceiling, this will be one of the issues for Mr. Membrey's review during his mission.

Best regards



**United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq  
(UNAMI)**

**Baghdad-Iraq**

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*Special Representative  
of the Secretary-General*

15 December 2007

Excellency,

*AND Dear Friends,*

As you are aware, the United Nations has recently suffered another tragic attack against its personnel, this time in Algeria. The attackers used a large vehicle bomb similar to that used against United Nations' staff at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad in 2003 and in May of this year against offices of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Erbil.

In addition to the increased security measures already put in place by the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities, the United Nations has identified a means to further protect our staff against the possibility of a vehicle bomb attack on our compound in Erbil. By increasing the standoff between the roads and the perimeter walls of the United Nations compound, the effect of a large vehicle bomb can be significantly reduced. To that end, it has earlier been agreed by your Ministry and the Governor's Office to construct a robust crash barrier along the curb of the roads adjacent to the perimeter walls of the UNAMI compound. You are welcome to paint the barrier in such a manner as not to give the impression of excessive security.

I have recently been informed that in a meeting with the UNAMI Erbil Office on 12 December the Governor of Erbil, Mr. Nawzad Hadi, following your approval, confirmed his support for the implementation of this project. Mr. Hadi further indicated that his Office would undertake the construction of the crash barrier in the near future. This support is greatly appreciated.

H.E. Abdul Karim Sultan Sinjari  
Minister of State for the Interior  
Kurdistan Regional Government  
Erbil

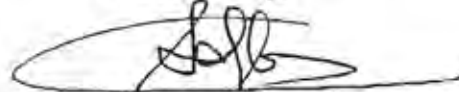
cc: - Dr. Dindar Zebari, OCUNA, Erbil  
- Mark Rutgers, UNAMI Area Office, Erbil

In keeping with expanded United Nations operations in the Kurdistan Regional Government area, as well as the importance of providing the necessary security for our staff members, your support to ensure this project is given the appropriate priority and speed of completion is highly welcomed.

Allow me to once again reiterate my sincere appreciation of the Kurdistan Regional Government's ongoing efforts to secure United Nations personnel and assets and wish you and your family a peaceful and prosperous Eid Al Adha.

TACH!

Yours sincerely,



Staffan de Mistura  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General