

EVENT PROGRAM

IRAQ BEYOND 'MOSUL': AVOIDING THE NEXT CONFLICT

Tuesday 21 November 2017, Hofweg 9e, The Hague

Event outline

On Tuesday 21 November 2017, Clingendael's Conflict Research Unit organizes an intensive debate in The Hague between experts, officials, policy-makers and opinion-setters about how further conflict in Iraq can be avoided. A terrible period in Iraq's history is drawing to a close. But instead of being the beginning of the end, the conclusion of the fight against the Islamic State could only be the end of the beginning.

Major new challenges have already appeared on Iraq's horizon. They include further alienation of its Sunni community due to revanchist acts and inadequate reconciliation efforts, the intense infighting among Iraq's Shi'a political elites, the lack of accountability of key Al-Hashd al-Sha'abi groups to the state and the question of Kurdish independence.

These challenges take shape in a context of intense regional political rivalry between Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, rising poverty rates in Iraq itself, significant recovery and developmental needs throughout the country and an Iraqi state that is basically broke. The potential for further political upheaval, radicalization and violence is significant.

The event aims to identify what the Netherlands government can do to help avoid more violence, including within the framework of the European Union and as part of the international community. Since the Dutch coalition agreement of October 2017 considers Iraq to be a priority country for Dutch foreign policy, this question has only become more pertinent. The day features an expert meeting until 3pm (by invitation only), and a public panel debate from 4-6pm, concluding with a reception.

Venue:

Hofweg 9e, 3rd floor, premises of the International Development of Law Organization, The Hague.

*The event is made possible by the generous support of the
[Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law](#)*

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Time	Issue	Leading questions	Speakers
9:30 – 15:00hrs Expert event (by invitation only; Chatham House rule)			
09:30-10:00	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main issues Iraq faces today? • What are the main elements of Dutch foreign policy towards Iraq? <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Plenary</i></p>	Erwin van Veen (Clingendael) Simone van der Post (Dutch Foreign Ministry)
10:00-12:00	Session 1: <i>Politics and crises at the center</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do the main political alliances and their agendas in Baghdad look like? • What are the prospect for electoral reform? • How significant is the role of Iran? • What to do with the Hashd al-Sha'abi? <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Plenary</i></p>	Renad Mansour (Chatham House) Hayder al-Khoei (ECFR) Floor El Kamouni-Janssen (Clingendael)
12:00-13:00	Lunch		
13:00-15:00	Session 2: <i>Politics and crises at the periphery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the fragmentation of governance and security in Iraq mean for reconstruction and the potential for violence? • How to make sense of the recent Kurdish referendum and its aftermath? • How to understand the different roles of the Peshmerga? <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Plenary & breakout groups</i></p>	Erica Gaston (GPPI) Kawa Hassan (East-West Institute) Feike Fliervoet (EUI)
16:00 - 19:00hrs Public panel discussion			
16:00-17:45	Avoiding the next conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key challenges that Iraq currently faces? • How could these challenges trigger further conflict? • What can the international community / The Netherlands do to help avoid such conflict? 	Monika Sie Dhian Ho (chair; director Clingendael) Saywan Barzani (Iraqi ambassador to The Netherlands) Birgitta Tazelaar (Director Middle East division, Dutch Foreign Ministry) Ali Al-Mawlawi (Research director of the Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies)
17:45-18:00	Knowledge Platform	Short introduction of the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law	Megan Price (Head Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law)
18:00-19:00	Reception		