



Conference on the protection of civilians and respect of international humanitarian law during the Ninawa operation

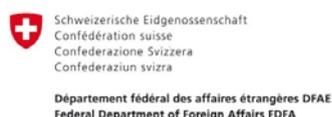
Final humanitarian declaration

We, the Signatories

Concerned by the protection of the civilian and other protected persons in Iraq, including in Kurdistan Region, under International Humanitarian Law, call on all armed actors involved in the ongoing armed conflict to undertake the necessary protection measures, in particular by:

1. Allowing and facilitating impartial humanitarian access to all areas, respecting and protecting humanitarian aid and health workers, aid and relief actors, allowing all persons, including IDPs and refugees, access to basic services, regardless of (their) ethnicity and religion; taking the necessary measures to preserve the family unity or re-uniting the families after separation
2. Respecting the principles of distinction between civilians and combatants, proportionality and precaution when conducting military operations in order to protect civilians and civilian objects
3. Respecting and protecting schools, hospitals, religious institutions, cultural heritage and other civilian objects and facilities
4. Allowing the evacuation of civilians into safe places in case their security is endangered, keeping in mind that forced displacement of civilians is prohibited unless is temporarily necessary for their own security or imperative military reasons.
5. Upholding the total prohibition of sexual violence,
6. Prohibiting the recruitment of children under 18, whether it was a voluntary or obligatory recruitment and prohibition of their use in hostilities, whether it is direct or indirect
7. Ensuring the right of education for all, also for displaced children and youth, with no discrimination based on religion, gender, ethnicity or other categories.

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8. Protecting vulnerable persons and taking into account the special needs of women, elderly and disabled.
9. Refraining from the use of prohibited weapons, and ensuring that weapons are not used indiscriminately; and refraining from using «human shields» and from hostage taking.
10. Prohibiting summary executions and forced disappearances.
11. Respecting the rule of law and offering essential judicial guarantees of impartiality and independence, when conducting trials, reviewing the legality of detention and passing of sentences.
12. Respecting the rights of prisoners as required by international humanitarian and human rights law, including the absolute prohibition of killing, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, rape, mutilation or outrages upon personal dignity against prisoners, and the exercise of any of those acts in order to obtain confessions or collaboration, and treating civilians in detention humanely without any adverse distinction based on religion, gender, ethnicity or other categories.

We will do all possible efforts to disseminate this call and to contribute to the respect of these principles by all parties to the conflict.

Dohuk, 18th October 2016

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