

Republic of Iraq  
Prime Minister's designate  
Dr. Haidar Al-Abadi



جمهورية العراق  
الدكتور حيدر العبادي  
رئيس الوزراء

September 10 / 2014

**The Honorable John Boehner**  
**Speaker, United States House of Representatives**  
**The Capitol**  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of the newly-elected government of the Republic of Iraq, I would like to share with you our vision for the future of Iraq, as well as some of the government's top priorities for addressing the major challenges we face, including the threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Before moving forward, please accept my condolences on the brutal murders of James Foley and Stephen Sotloff two brave Americans who were committed to bringing light to dark corners controlled by extremists.

The American people stood beside Iraq during some of our darkest days. Your country helped us end the reign of the tyrannical Saddam Hussein and defeat al-Qaeda when the terrorist group attempted to rip our country apart at the seams. Our sons and daughters shed precious blood together during years of tough fighting ; and too many American and Iraqi youth paid the ultimate price to bring freedom to Iraq.

Let there be no doubt: the United States is Iraq's partner of choice. The Strategic Framework Agreement, which is a unique agreement with the United States, provides an outline for the bilateral relationship between our countries. From security cooperation to robust trade and cultural exchanges, Iraq has aligned itself with the United States and my government aspires to deepen those ties.

**The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant must be defeated.** ISIL's aim is to use whatever means available to eradicate all those who oppose their warped

interpretation of Islam. Simply put, ISIL will destroy anyone and anything that does not submit to its worldview. Because of this narrow vision, these terrorists will not stop until they are defeated militarily and neutralized politically.

My government is taking the necessary steps to rebuild the Iraqi Security Forces, in terms of both professionalism and capacity. We are adopting the necessary reforms and working with US advisors to reverse the situation. The central government is also working with regional and tribal leaders to train, equip and incorporate local security forces into the country's security fabric.

**We will protect the rights of all Iraqis—regardless of their religious or ethnic background.** Despite the immense security and political challenges, our newly-formed government represents all Iraqis. We have put aside our differences in order to stand united against the barbarism of ISIL, and because inclusive government is the best way to guarantee a safe and secure future for our country. In order to staunch political support for ISIL, my government will implement immediately a series of political reforms and confidence-building measures to ensure the Iraqi government works for all Iraqis, regardless of religious and ethnic considerations.

Reforming the judiciary is a critical component to rebuilding trust among the central and provincial governments, as well as across ethnic lines. There are a number of other measures we will seek to enact, including a revenue-sharing mechanism that protects the interests of all Iraqis. We also have an immediate need to address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq by working with international agencies to provide adequate relief for our internally displaced.

**Iraq will lead the fight against ISIL.** As the world has witnessed, the Islamic State is a threat to all peace-seeking and pluralistic societies, wherever they exist. Inside of Iraq, we will empower local communities to fight ISIL, but the killings of Foley and Sotloff demonstrate that ISIL is a threat to the international community as well. ISIL has recruited and trained battle-hardened Western fighters, and certainly intends to one day unleash them back into the societies from which they came. This cannot be allowed to happen.

By leading the fight, Iraq will defend and help protect the international community against the spread of this vile and brutal ideology, but we cannot achieve this alone. Iraq needs partners, and we will work closely with the United States, European allies and our neighbors to develop a collective regional effort to combat the spread of extremism.

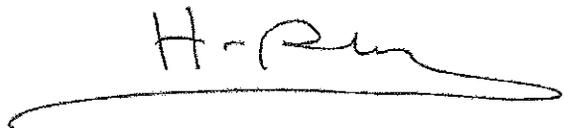
It must be recognized, however, that we face an enemy with conventional military capabilities never before wielded by a terrorist group. We therefore need adequate

security assistance and military support from the United States to combat ISIL. With the remolding of our military the same mistakes at the outset of the ISIL offensive will not be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I appreciate that the United States is currently engaged in the political process to elect its national legislature. More importantly, I know that the plight of my country might be an issue during the campaign. I can assure you that the investment America made in Iraq was worth the price. We are a young democracy with many challenges before us, but all Iraqis desire a stable and prosperous country that is safe for our children and grandchildren.

My government stands ready to work with you, your colleagues and President Barack Obama and his administration to address the multitude of common challenges that we face.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Al Abadi', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Haider Al Abadi**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq**

Cc: The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, United States Senate