

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF IRAQ**

3421 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007



سَفَارَةُ جُمْهُورِيَّةِ الْعِرَاقِ
وَأَشْنَطِن
بِالْيُوزْخَانَةِ كُومَارِي عِيْرَاقِ لِهْ وَأَشْنَطِن

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: NATALIE GEWARGIS
(202) 640-8498

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Iraqi Ambassador Rejects Partitioning of Iraq

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Ambassador Samir Sumaida'ie released the following statement:

The Iraqi people share more than their identity born of the legacy of their ancestors and the long history of their land; they share marriages and families, homes and neighborhoods, schools and hospitals. These unions, in addition to their Iraqi identity, bind them together. Despite the strains imposed by terrorists and extremists, their collective will is to stay united. That will is clearly expressed by the Iraqi constitution which stipulates a united, free, democratic and federal Iraq.

The non-binding resolution passed by the Senate on Wednesday, September 26th implicitly calling for the partitioning of Iraq into three separate entities along ethnic and sectarian lines, will not help to preserve Iraq; rather, it could lead to the break up of Iraq. It is not a solution; it could complicate rather than simplify a difficult situation. The Iraqi people will not accept sectarian partitioning. Al Qaeda and other extremists must not be given such a victory, when together the multi-national forces, Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi people at large, have been making steady gains against them, and beginning to resolve their political differences.

Sectarian violence is a passing problem in Iraq as it was in other countries. It does not follow that the only solution for it is separation. A federal structure notwithstanding, pushing for sectarian separation in Iraq at this juncture would encourage the spread of instability, violence and terrorism throughout the entire region. This would not only be detrimental to the interests of its peoples, but also to the interests of the United States.

The shape of a future Iraq will be determined solely by Iraqis themselves. Only they will decide on the finalization and interpretation of their constitution. The contributions made by the United States Congress and the American people are invaluable, and their sacrifices greatly appreciated. However, Congress must not be seen to undermine the will of the very people it helped to empower.

This resolution will not hasten the day American troops come home, which is a goal shared by Iraqis and Americans. If actively pursued, partitioning will do just the opposite.