

- ^g Bangladesh, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.
- ^h Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine; Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States; Permanent Observer of the Holy See; and two Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East.
- ⁱ The representative of Finland spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of the United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Japan was represented by its Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Holy See was represented by the First Counsellor of its Observer Mission.
- ^j The Special Coordinator and the Commissioner-General participated in the meeting by videoconference from Jerusalem and Gaza City, respectively.
- ^k Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- ^l The representative of Croatia spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of Saudi Arabia spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; the representative of Uganda spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^m Poland (President of the Council) was represented by the Secretary of State of the Chancellery of its President.
- ⁿ Jordan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates; and the State of Palestine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^o Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.
- ^p Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office; and South Africa (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.
- ^q The representative of Lebanon did not make a statement. The representative of Azerbaijan spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; the representative of Croatia spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of Tunisia spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; and the representative of United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The representative of Namibia spoke both in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and in his national capacity.
- ^r Ms. Raemer participated in the meeting by videoconference from Tel Aviv.

25. The situation concerning Iraq

In 2019, the Council held four meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation concerning Iraq. On 21 May 2019, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 May 2020, through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2470 (2019). All meetings under the item during the period under review took the form of briefings.⁵⁰⁶ For more information on the meetings, including participants, speakers and outcomes, please see the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Iraq and Kuwait from 27 to 30 June 2019.⁵⁰⁷

During the period under review, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation concerning Iraq. In her four briefings,⁵⁰⁸ she reported on the progress made towards the formation of a Government and on senior appointments to the federal Cabinet and parliamentary committees. She also reported on the progress made regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

In a briefing given to the Council at the beginning of 2019,⁵⁰⁹ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the Turkish military

⁵⁰⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵⁰⁷ For more information on the Council's mission to Iraq and Kuwait, see part I, sect. 33.

⁵⁰⁸ See [S/PV.8462](#), [S/PV.8531](#), [S/PV.8606](#) and [S/PV.8676](#).

⁵⁰⁹ See [S/PV.8462](#).

airstrikes in northern Iraq, near the border between Iraq and Turkey. The airstrikes had been condemned by the authorities of Iraq as violations of its sovereignty, while Turkey maintained that they had been made against targets linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party. The Special Representative expressed regret about the loss of civilian lives and livelihoods and stated that it was important that the Governments of both countries accelerate efforts to resolve the issue through bilateral dialogue.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General covered other topics affecting the situation in Iraq, including the agreement on the formation of the new Kurdistan Regional Government and the establishment of a high-level joint committee between Baghdad and Erbil. Despite the positive development, she expressed concern regarding the agreement not materializing in the form of tangible breakthroughs on the ground.⁵¹⁰ The Special Representative also reported to the Council on the support provided by UNAMI to the Independent High Electoral Commission and on the amendments passed in July 2019 to the electoral law on governorate councils. In regard to the latter, she stressed that certain provisions were of great concern, as they could potentially disenfranchise many otherwise eligible voters. She cautioned that the transparency and accountability of electoral institutions and processes were not sufficiently guaranteed for the elections expected to be held in April 2020.⁵¹¹

In her briefing to the Council on 3 December,⁵¹² against the backdrop of protests and civil unrest in early October 2019 and the subsequent resignation of the Prime Minister in early December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that, from the beginning of the demonstrations, authorities had resorted to excessive use of force and that, although the Government had announced various reform packages addressing such issues as housing, unemployment, financial support and education, those packages were often perceived as unrealistic. She also mentioned that, although the Government's investigation into the violence of early October was a positive step, it was seen as incomplete. She emphasized the collective responsibility of the political class as a whole to advance real solutions.

In another briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General commended the Iraqi security forces for their bravery in continuing to hunt down the remaining fighters of Islamic State in Iraq and the

Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in the aftermath of its territorial defeat. She also expressed concerns regarding returning fighters and refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, from a security and capacity perspective, as well as from the perspective of human rights and humanitarian protection. Reporting on humanitarian efforts, she expressed concerns regarding the continued underfunding of both the Funding Facility for Stabilization of the United Nations Development Programme and the 2019 humanitarian response plan. She added that, although houses, roads, bridges and power lines had been rebuilt, and 4.3 million people had returned home thanks to many donor contributions, about 1.6 million internally displaced persons were still desperately waiting to return to their homes in safety and dignity.⁵¹³

Regarding accountability for human rights violations, the Special Representative stressed that promoting more consistent adherence to international standards of due process and fair trial was of the greatest importance, as an impartial and transparent process of judicial accountability for the gross violations of human rights committed by ISIL (Da'esh) would prove crucial in rebuilding peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.⁵¹⁴

On 3 December 2019,⁵¹⁵ the Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Observer and Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations on the work of the Tripartite Commission, chaired by ICRC, and on the progress made in repatriating missing persons from the 1991 Gulf War, including the recovery of Kuwaiti remains for the first time in 14 years. At the same meeting, the Archbishop of Erbil gave a briefing on the protests held since October 2019, stating that they demonstrated the rejection of the post-2003 structure and Government of the country by the majority of the Iraqi people.

At meetings on the item in 2019, Council members welcomed the progress made on Government formation and overall reconstruction efforts.⁵¹⁶ Members also commended the central Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government for their cooperation and dialogue⁵¹⁷ and the appointment of senior positions in the federal Cabinet and

⁵¹⁰ See [S/PV.8531](#), [S/PV.8606](#) and [S/PV.8676](#).

⁵¹¹ See [S/PV.8462](#) and [S/PV.8606](#).

⁵¹² See [S/PV.8676](#).

⁵¹³ See [S/PV.8606](#).

⁵¹⁴ See [S/PV.8462](#).

⁵¹⁵ See [S/PV.8676](#).

⁵¹⁶ See [S/PV.8462](#) (Indonesia, China and South Africa); [S/PV.8531](#) (Peru); and [S/PV.8606](#) (United States, Germany, Belgium, Peru, Russian Federation and Poland).

⁵¹⁷ See [S/PV.8531](#) (South Africa and China).

parliamentary committees,⁵¹⁸ although several expressed concern over the absence of women in those positions.⁵¹⁹ Numerous Council members expressed support for UNAMI and the Government of Iraq in having addressed, among other issues, the continued threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) and the humanitarian issues pertaining to internally displaced persons.⁵²⁰ In addition, several members reiterated their support for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), as it continued to carry out its vital work to ensure justice for survivors in accordance with the country's international human rights obligations.⁵²¹ Council members also expressed support for the Iraqi people's legitimate right to peaceful protest, while some condemned the acts of violence against demonstrators and called on all actors to exercise maximum restraint.⁵²²

On 21 May 2019, the Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2020, through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#).⁵²³ In the resolution, the Council welcomed the efforts by the

Government of Iraq to address corruption and strengthen viable and responsive State institutions through its national government programme for 2018–2020.⁵²⁴ The Council decided that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and UNAMI, taking into account the request from the Government of Iraq, should prioritize the provision of advice, support and assistance to the Government and people of Iraq on advancing inclusive, political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation.⁵²⁵ The Council also decided that the Special Representative and UNAMI should further advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq with regard to, inter alia, election processes, constitutional reviews, security sector reform, regional dialogue and cooperation, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction efforts, the protection of human rights and judicial and legal reform, while approaching gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and assisting in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, as well as in strengthening child protection.⁵²⁶

In connection with Iraq, developments in 2019 relating to the question of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals were considered under the item entitled “The situation between Iraq and Kuwait”, and those relating to UNITAD were considered under the agenda item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”.⁵²⁷

⁵¹⁸ Ibid., (Indonesia); and [S/PV.8606](#) (United States and Poland).

⁵¹⁹ See [S/PV.8606](#) (United States, Germany, Dominican Republic, Belgium and United Kingdom).

⁵²⁰ Ibid., (United States, Germany, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, France, China, United Kingdom, Indonesia, South Africa and Russian Federation).

⁵²¹ See [S/PV.8531](#) (Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, United Kingdom and China); and [S/PV.8606](#) (Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, Peru, France and Indonesia).

⁵²² See [S/PV.8676](#) (United States, United Kingdom, Peru, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, France, Belgium, Poland and Germany).

⁵²³ Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.

⁵²⁴ Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph.

⁵²⁵ Ibid., para. 2 (a). See also [S/2019/414](#).

⁵²⁶ Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), para. 2 (b)–(f).

⁵²⁷ For more information, see part I, sects. 24 and 37.

Meetings: the situation concerning Iraq

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8462 13 February 2019	Twenty-first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2019/78) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2421 (2018) (S/2019/101)		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	Six Council members, ^a all invitees	

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<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8531 21 May 2019	<p>Twenty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2019/352)</p> <p>Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2421 (2018) (S/2019/365)</p>	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2019/416)	Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees	Resolution 2470 (2019) 15-0-0
S/PV.8606 28 August 2019	<p>Twenty-third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2019/632)</p> <p>Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2470 (2019) (S/2019/660)</p>		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees ^b	
S/PV.8676 3 December 2019	<p>Twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2019/865)</p> <p>Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2470 (2019) (S/2019/903)</p>		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Permanent Observer and Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations, Archbishop of Erbil	All Council members, all invitees ^c	

^a China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Kuwait and South Africa.

^b The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from The Hague.

^c The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Baghdad.