Minister of State Lindner travels to Jordan and Iraq

2025-01-22

Minister of State Lindner issued the following statement today (22 January) concerning his trip to Jordan and Iraq:

Following the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad, there is a great opportunity in Syria to finally initiate an inclusive political transition process and to re-establish lasting stability in the country. The international community cannot pass up this opportunity – a view shared by our partners in the region.

As Federal Foreign Office Special Coordinator for Syria, it is very important to me to travel to Jordan and Iraq now to discuss support for the process in Syria with our partners, as well as the challenges it entails. The threat posed by the Islamic State is still real. Germany continues to be involved in the efforts to combat the Islamic State as part of the Global Coalition against Daesh.

Jordan is our close partner. Its intensive diplomatic efforts and the personal endeavours of His Majesty King Abdullah II regarding the current Gaza conflict demonstrate the responsibility Jordan has taken on in playing a constructive role focused on solutions in the international community. The conference in Aqaba on Syria hosted by Jordan also highlighted this.

In the wake of the conflicts of the past, Iraq is steadily becoming ever more stable and will elect a new government this year. Germany has provided considerable civilian and military resources for this transition over the past years. In Iraq, I would like to bring myself up to speed on the progress made with regard to the return of internally displaced persons to their homes, the investigation of IS crimes and the situation of minorities, in particular the Yazidi community.

Background information:

Minister of State Lindner will be in Jordan and Iraq for political talks from 21 to 24 January, following on from the Foreign Minister’s talks at the most recent Syria conference in Riyadh on 12 January.

In Jordan, Minister of State Lindner will have consultations with representatives from the Jordanian Government, as well as with ambassadors of other states, to discuss the situation

in the region and the impact of political developments in Syria. Furthermore, talks with

UNHCR

on the situation and prospects of Syrian refugees in the region are scheduled.

In Iraq, discussions with the Government and representatives of the Region of Kurdistan-Iraq about the political situation and bilateral cooperation are on the agenda. Moreover, the focus will be on support for the political transition in Syria and safeguarding security and stability in the region. In bilateral terms, Iraq and Germany want to further intensify cooperation, in particular when it comes to the prosecution of IS crimes, energy and climate.

In addition, Minister of State Lindner will visit soldiers stationed in Iraq and discuss the humanitarian situation in Syria and Iraq, as well as the human rights situation, with NGOs and representatives of international organisations.

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Source : https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/2696786-2696786