

Event invitation: Tuesday 21 November, The Hague

IRAQ BEYOND 'MOSUL': AVOIDING THE NEXT CONFLICT

Event outline

On Tuesday 21 November 2017, Clingendael's Conflict Research Unit organizes an intensive debate in The Hague between experts, officials, policy-makers and opinion-setters about how further conflict in Iraq can be avoided. A terrible period in Iraq's history is drawing to a close. But instead of being the beginning of the end, the approaching conclusion of the fight against the Islamic State may only be the end of the beginning.

Major new challenges have already appeared on Iraq's horizon. They include further alienation of its Sunni community due to revanchist acts and inadequate reconciliation efforts, the intense infighting among Iraq's Shi'a political elites, the lack of accountability of key Al-Hashd al-Shaabi groups to the state and the question of Kurdish independence.

These challenges take shape in a context of intense regional political rivalry between Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, rising poverty rates in Iraq itself, significant recovery and developmental needs throughout the country and an Iraqi state that is basically broke. The potential for further political upheaval, radicalization and violence is significant.

The event aims to identify what the Netherlands government can do to help avoid more violence, including within the framework of the European Union and as part of the international community. As the Dutch coalition agreement of October 2017 considers Iraq to be a priority country for its foreign policy, this question just became more pertinent. The day features an expert meeting until 3pm (by invitation only), and a public panel debate from 4-6pm, concluding with a reception.

Venue: Hofweg 9e, 3rd floor, premises of the International Development of Law Organization, The Hague. The discussion starts at 4pm (Tuesday 21 November)

Please register by emailing Erwin van Veen: even@clingendael.org

*The event is made possible by the generous support of the
[Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law](#)*

Event program of Tuesday 21 November

Time	Issue	Discussion	Speakers
9:30 – 15:00hrs Expert event (by invitation only; Chatham House rule)			
09:30-10:00	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main issues Iraq faces today? • What are the main elements of Dutch foreign policy towards Iraq? 	Erwin van Veen (Clingendael) Simone van der Post (Dutch Foreign Ministry)
10:00-12:00	Session 1: <i>Politics and crises at the center</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do the main political alliances and their agendas in Baghdad look like? • What are the prospect for electoral reform? • How significant is the role of Iran? • What to do with the Hashd al-Sha'abi? 	Hayder al-Khoei (ECFR) Renad Mansour (Chatham House) Floor El Kamouni-Janssen (Clingendael)
12:00-13:00	Lunch		
13:00-15:00	Session 2: <i>Politics and crises at the periphery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the implications of central politics in Baghdad for Kurdish and Sunni minorities? • What are the challenges for Iraq's smaller minority communities? • How do regional influences play out? 	Kawa Hassan (East-West Institute) Erica Gaston (GPPI) Feike Fliervoet (EUI)
16:00 - 19:00hrs Public discussion			
16:00-17:45	Avoiding the next conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main issues that can trigger future conflict? • How would this impact on the region and radicalization? • What can the Netherlands do to help avoid future violence? 	Monika Sie Dhian Ho (chair; director Clingendael) Saywan Barzani (Iraqi ambassador to The Netherlands) Mark Zellenrath (Deputy director Middle East directorate, Dutch Foreign Ministry) Ali Al-Mawlaki (Research director of the Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies)
17:45-18:00	Knowledge Platform	Short introduction of the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law	Megan Price (Head Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law)
18:00-19:00	Reception		

Please register by emailing: even@clingendael.org

The event is made possible by the generous support of the [Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law](#)