

UN says violence in Iraq claimed 82 civilian lives in August



Baghdad, September 3 (RHC) -- Violence across Iraq killed 82 civilians in August, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) said Sunday.

A UNAMI statement added that 113 civilians were wounded in the terror attacks and armed conflicts in Iraq in the past month.

It said the number of casualties did not include Iraqi troops and security members killed and wounded, as the Iraqi military declined to give such information.

Previous figures of security members' casualties released by the UNAMI were dismissed by the Iraqi military as "inaccurate."

Figures of August showed that Iraqi capital Baghdad was the worst affected with 77 civilian casualties, as 24 people were killed and 53 others wounded.

The second was the country's northern province of Nineveh, with 39 civilian casualties, as 29 were killed and 10 wounded.

The security situation in Iraq has been dramatically improved after Iraqi security forces fully defeated the extremist Islamic State (IS) militants across the country late in 2017.

However, small groups and individuals of extremist militants regrouped in urban and rugged areas and are carrying out attacks against the security forces and civilians despite operations from time to time to hunt them down.

Many blame the chronic instability, cycle of violence, and the emergence of extremist groups in Iraq on the United States, which invaded the country in March 2003, under the pretext of seeking to destroy weapons of mass destruction in the country. But no such weapons were found.

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