



EUJUST LEX-Iraq Press Release

Baghdad, 8th December 2013

The Rule of Law and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on 10 December 1948, the Rule of Law has become an ideal and an aspiration in the world. The elements of the Rule of Law are: legality, democracy and Human Rights.

The European Union sees Human Rights as universal and indivisible. It actively promotes and defends them both within its borders and when engaging in relations with non-EU countries.

The EUJUST LEX-Iraq mission, which is the first integrated Rule of Law mission, was mandated to support the Government and the people of Iraq through making a useful contribution to the reconstruction and the emergence of a stable, secure and democratic Iraq. It included the promotion of a closer collaboration between the different actors across the criminal justice system and to strengthen the management capacity of senior and high-ranking officials from the police, judiciary and penitentiary services in full respect for the Rule of Law and Human Rights.

Mainstreaming Human Rights into all of the mission's activities has therefore been a long-standing objective and the mission took pride in ensuring that this crucial aspect was taken into account in the planning and execution of mission's operations.

The promotion of Human Rights, with special emphasis on gender and rights of the child and the Rule of Law, are also keys to sustainable conflict resolution and to lasting peace and security. It has been an honour for EUJUST LEX-Iraq to be part of this crucial endeavour and we commemorate the International Day of Human Rights on 10 December with the greatest respect.

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European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq