



**IRAQ AND FINLAND: EXPANDING COOPERATION IN COUNTERTERRORISM AND
FACILITATING VOLUNTARY RETURN**

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Iraq and Finland affirmed on Monday the importance of expanding cooperation in counterterrorism and organizing the voluntary return of Iraqis residing illegally in the country.

The Undersecretary of Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Planning, Ambassador Hisham Al-Alawi, received the Finnish Minister of the Interior, Mari Rantanen, and her accompanying delegation at the Ministry's headquarters in Baghdad as the Finnish Ambassador and embassy staff in Baghdad, Ambassador Bakr Fattah, Head of the European Department, the Assistant Head of the Consular Department, and representatives of relevant departments within the Ministry were also present, according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA.

During the meeting, Al-Alawi emphasized "the importance of developing partnership relations with Helsinki," noting that "Iraq has succeeded in consolidating its democratic system by holding successful elections last year, which received widespread international praise from the European Union, the United Nations, and the League of Arab States."

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