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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 2:05 PM
To: H
Subject: Zebari call sheet

I can set this up thru ops if u want to call.
The Secretary's Call Sheet for
Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari

Purpose of Call: To express your condolences regarding the deaths of Iraqi MFA personnel in the August 19 attack on the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

I want to personally express my heartfelt condolences to you for the savage attack on the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and for the tragic loss of so many Iraqi lives around Baghdad and particularly at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I remember fondly our meeting at the MFA in April – I was proud to be the first senior U.S. official to attend a meeting there, and I was deeply saddened to hear that your Ministry was attacked.

This is a trying day for Iraqis and the Government of Iraq, but brutal attacks like these only deepen the need for dedicated Iraqi like you and those in your Ministry, to remain committed to the new Iraq.

Know that the United States will continue to stand by Iraq as it faces these challenges.

Background: On Wednesday, August 19, what appears to be a series of VBIED and additional rocket attacks in Baghdad resulted in the bloodiest day in Baghdad since the June 30 withdrawal of U.S. forces from urban areas. Although exact numbers have not been confirmed, media is reporting that approximately 75 people were killed across Baghdad with over 100 injuries. The most devastating attack appears to have been against the Iraqi MFA, where a VBIED was exploded in front of the main gate. Zebari's Chief of Staff estimated that there were 35-40 fatalities and up to 40 injuries resulting from this attack, with 70% of the building damaged. In April, you were the first senior U.S. official to hold a meeting at the MFA. Deputy Foreign Minister Labid Abbawi, who attended your meeting at the MFA and who's wife led your meeting with Iraqi war widows, was reportedly slightly injured and quite shaken by the attack. He may have lost a number of staff members. At this point, we do not know if other senior-ranking MFA officials were killed or wounded in the attack.