



Media relations
P.O. Box, 9023 St. Gallen

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Media Release

regarding judgment F-7440/2025 of 30 March 2026

A suspected IS member may be in Iraq

A Swiss national and suspected IS member who was detained in northern Syria may have been transferred to Iraq. The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs must reassess the situation before ruling again on his application for repatriation to Switzerland.

In 2015, a Swiss national travelled to Syria where he is presumed to have joined the Islamic State (IS). In mid-2019, he was arrested and detained by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). He subsequently applied to the Consular Directorate (CD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for repatriation to Switzerland under consular protection. In September 2025, the CD rejected his application, subject to further on-site support. The applicant lodged an appeal against this decision with the Federal Administrative Court (FAC).

Change in underlying circumstances

Following the change in the distribution of power in northern Syria, detainees from the local SDF prisons were transferred to Iraq in February 2026. The appellant is presumed to have been among them. In Iraq he could face the death penalty. Considering the change in underlying circumstances, the FAC refers the matter back to the lower instance for reassessment.

This judgment may be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court.

Media contact

Rocco R. Maglio
Spokesperson
+41 58 465 29 86
medien@bvger.admin.ch

About the Federal Administrative Court

Located in St. Gallen, the Federal Administrative Court (FAC) was established in 2007. With its staff of 395 employees (334 FTE) and its 79 judges (70 FTE) it is the largest federal court in Switzerland. The Federal Administrative Court has jurisdiction to hear appeals against decisions rendered by Swiss federal administrative authorities. In specific

matters, the FAC may grant review on decisions rendered by cantonal authorities. Recourse actions are also reviewed by the Court. The FAC is composed of six divisions. It renders an average of 7,000 judgments every year.