



Kidnap and Ransom



31

MAR

17:12 UTC

Iraq Alert: American journalist reportedly kidnapped in Baghdad during evening hours on March 31; avoid all travel

Current Situation:

- The Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced during the evening hours (local time) on March 31 that a foreign journalist was kidnapped by unknown individuals.
- Reports indicate that the victim is the prominent US journalist, Shelly Kittleson, and that she was kidnapped near the Palestine Hotel in central Baghdad's al-Saadoun Street.
- The MoI indicated that law enforcement authorities had apprehended one of the suspects, seized a vehicle used in the crime, and that search operations remain ongoing.
- No group has claimed responsibility for her kidnapping at the time of writing.

Source: [MoI](#)

Recommendations:

1. Continue avoiding all travel to Iraq amid the current escalation between the US/Israel and Iran and the extensive risks posed to US nationals in the country.
2. US nationals still in Iraq are advised to maintain as low a profile as possible and leave the country due to the elevated risk of kidnapping.

