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Ottawa Journal ? Canada?s contribution to fight terrorism in Iraq

The situation in Iraq continues to grow more and more tragic. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has conducted a campaign of unspeakable atrocities ? beheadings, rape, slavery ? on the most innocent of people, all because they think differently from ISIL.

Canada should make no mistake that ISIL has also specifically aimed at us, urging supporters to target ?disbelieving Canadians in any manner,? vowing that we should not feel secure, even in our homes.

Our Government strongly condemns the actions of ISIL, especially as they threaten the lives of Canadians and innocent people around the world.

We are joining our allies ? the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and others ? in launching air strikes against ISIL.

We are also contributing one air-to-air refuelling aircraft, two Aurora surveillance aircraft, and the necessary air crews and support personnel. In addition, we are extending the deployment announced in September of up to 69 members of the Canadian Armed Forces, in a non-combat role, to continue to advise and assist security forces in Iraq.

This builds on the previous action our Government has taken to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. We dispatched relief supplies for refugees including tents, blankets, and kitchen and hygiene kits with the help of the Red Cross. We also continue to work with organizations such as Save the Children Canada and Mercy Corps. In addition to providing supplies to those displaced by the violence, we are also providing medical supplies to health facilities and helping with emergency repairs to water and sanitation facilities.

If left unhindered, this terrorist threat will only grow. This is why, as our allies have recognized and responded to ISIL, we've joined the cause. Canada will not stand on the sidelines, we will do our part. Our Government is standing up for the safety and security of Canadian families and innocent civilians around the world.

By David Tilson, MP