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IRAQ AT PEACE AS DANGEROUS AS AFGHANISTAN AT WAR EPIC Launches Petition to Put Iraq Back on the Agenda

Just over a year ago, the U.S. military completed its withdrawal from Iraq and the Obama Administration declared an end to the war, yet for most Iraqis, the conflict is far from over. Despite the President's promise to restore peace in Iraq, there was nearly a 10% increase in the number of violent deaths in Iraq last year as compared to the same period in 2011. As a result, the Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC) has decided that action must be taken in order to put Iraq back on the agenda.

Iraq subject matter experts, Anthony Cordesman and Sam Karzai of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), have stated that, "Iraq at 'peace' remains nearly as violent as Afghanistan at 'war'." On March 12, 2013 EPIC launched a petition urging the President to clearly articulate and support a long-term strategy of U.S. diplomacy and assistance, including efforts to increase government accountability, strengthen civil society, and improve educational opportunities for the 20 million children and youth of Iraq.

EPIC is dedicated to helping people build a more peaceful, sustainable, democratic society in Iraq. We seek to accomplish this by advocating policies that further Iraq's prospects for peace and democracy, and through youth programs and partnerships in Iraq that engage young people in creating a brighter future.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Erik Gustafson at (202) 604-7413 or (202) 682-0208, or e-mail at ekg@epic-usa.org.