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PRESS RELEASE

Sydney, 22 July 2022— ACSYA Inc. strongly condemns the most recent artillery shelling in the district of Zakho (Duhok Governorate) that has reportedly killed and injured civilians as a result of the ongoing conflict between Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). According to local reports, PKK insurgents have frequently occupied heritage sites of historic and religious significance as well as civilian areas thus endangering Indigenous Assyrians as well as other population groups, including Kurds and Yazidis.

Under international law, attacks must not be directed at civilian populations. Furthermore, under the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, commonly known as the 1954 Hague Convention; it is unlawful for State Parties, individuals, or groups to engage in armed conflict or military operations that expose heritage sites to potential destruction and/or damage.

ACSYA Inc. calls on the Government of Iraq and their counterparts in the Kurdistan Region to not only thoroughly investigate these developments but to emphasize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. ACSYA Inc. urges all parties involved to cease these violations immediately.

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