Carter Arrives in Baghdad for Talks with Iraqi Leaders: TV

BAGHDAD - U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter arrived in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Monday for the first time in a scheduled visit to meet with Iraqi leaders, U.S. officials said.

Carter's visit is expected to be a high-profile demonstration of the strong relationship between the two countries, as relations between the United States and Iraq have been strained in recent months.

On Monday, Carter met with Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, who welcomed the visit as a sign of continued support for the Iraqi government.

The visit comes amid ongoing efforts to stabilize the country following the defeat of the Islamic State group in major cities.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the ongoing fight against the Islamic State, as well as other regional issues, including the situation in Syria.

Carter's visit is part of a broader diplomatic effort by the United States to build a coalition of countries to help Iraq retake areas from the Islamic State.

The United States has provided military and financial assistance to Iraq in its fight against the Islamic State group, and the visit is seen as a sign of continued support for the Iraqi government.

However, the visit also comes amid concerns about the potential for further instability in Iraq, particularly in the wake of the Islamic State's defeat.

The United States and other countries continue to work to ensure a stable and democratic Iraq, with a focus on maintaining regional stability and ensuring a peaceful transition to a democratic future.