

# *Pope Francis plans Iraq trip despite concerns about COVID*



## **Pope goes ahead with planned visit to Iraq?**

Vatican City, March 4 (RHC)-- Pope Francis is planning to travel to Baghdad Friday and is scheduled to meet with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani Saturday.

Some view the visit as ill-advised -- in addition to ongoing violence, a surge in coronavirus cases has prompted lockdowns in Iraq. The Vatican's ambassador to Iraq recently tested positive for COVID-19.

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