

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva / Erbil, 3 September 2019

This morning, at around 8 am local time, an American staff member of FSD was tragically killed following the explosion of an improvised explosive device close to the village of Tel al-Shear, south of Mosul, Iraq.

Brandon Pinson, 31 years old, married and father of two young children, was the supervisor of a team of Iraqi deminers. He was defusing an explosive device when the accident happened. None of the other staff members present in the area were harmed.

A full investigation into the cause of the accident has been opened by the Iraqi Directorate of Mine Action and the other relevant authorities. After a first assessment at the place of accident, involvement of any third parties appears to be excluded. Brandon Pinson had been working in the area with FSD for five months and was a very seasoned explosive ordnance disposal technician with ten years of experience in this field.

He was supervising one of FSD's 12 teams in Iraq aiming at clearing improvised explosive devices left behind by the so-called Islamic State in and around villages when they withdrew from the area in late 2016. These operations are fully coordinated with the competent national authorities and financed by international donor governments and private foundations and donors.

[FSD](#) is a humanitarian NGO based in Geneva. It works for a safer future through different types of programs: the fight against landmines and explosive remnants of war, including accident prevention and victim assistance; decontamination of sites polluted by toxic waste and sensitization of the affected communities; interventions to improve security in contexts of violence and instability. Over the past 22 years, FSD has conducted operations in some 30 countries.

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