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UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-second Special Session  
The human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed  
by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups  
1 September 2014

Mr. President,

This intervention draws on Amnesty International's written statement to this Special Session, which provides our recommendations for the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Iraq.<sup>1</sup>

Amnesty International's assessment is that all parties to the conflict in Iraq have committed gross abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes.

This Council must and will condemn the abominable crimes and abuses by the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) and other associated groups. It must go beyond that. It must also condemn the behaviour of those who have facilitated the commission of such crimes and abuses by aiding and abetting the Islamic State and its associated groups. It must endeavour to ensure any such supports stops immediately.

This Council must also address violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law by the Iraqi central authorities and other parties in Iraq, including Shi'a militias.

The massive displacement of civilians is a matter of grave concern. Many of those displaced are still in urgent need of humanitarian aid. This Council must remind all parties that the protection of civilians should be their top priority. It must also encourage the international community, the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government to continue to make concerted efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance.

This Council must look beyond the current situation. It must demand that Iraqi authorities rescind discriminatory policies and practices, set up institutions that serve all Iraqis and address the legacy of gross human rights violations in Iraq. Doing so is a fundamental element of preventing recurring violations and abuses.

Finally, Amnesty International urges this Council to re-establish a Special Rapporteur mandate to report regularly to it and General Assembly on the human rights situation in Iraq and to support the human rights promotion and protection efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and other relevant UN entities. The Council should do so at the earliest possible opportunity.

Thank you Mr. President.

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<sup>1</sup> Iraq: Human Rights Council must condemn the commission, contribution and facilitation of crimes under international law.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/010/2014/en> [last accessed 1 September 2014]