



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council Twenty-second special session 1 September 2014

### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

#### S-22/1

### The human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights law instruments,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1618 (2005) of 4 August 2005, 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005, 2169 (2014) of 30 July 2014 and 2170 (2014) of 15 August 2014, General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 October 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 10/15 of 26 March 2009 and 13/26 of 26 March 2010, as well as all other relevant United Nations resolutions,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq within its internationally recognized borders,

*Welcoming* the various statements issued by the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, in which they noted the enormity of the atrocities committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated terrorist groups, and in which they stated that such atrocities may amount to crimes against humanity, involving unlawful killing, sexual violence against women and children, enslavement, rape, forced marriages, displacement and abduction, and have caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the displacement of large numbers of people from the areas under their control,

*Deeply concerned* by the increasing and dramatic human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Iraq resulting from the terrorist acts committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated terrorist groups against the Iraqi people, including those involving unlawful killing, the deliberate targeting of civilians, forced conversions, targeted persecution of individuals on the basis of their religion or belief, and acts of violence against members of ethnic and religious minorities, in particular Christians and Yazidis in Mosul and the surrounding areas,

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including Sinjar, Tal Afar, Bashir, Amerli, the Plain of Nineveh and other areas, as well as sieges against civilians in villages inhabited by minorities,

*Deeply concerned also* by the attacks against civilians by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the mass execution of a large number of unarmed Iraqi soldiers and clergy, as well as the rampant destruction of monuments, shrines, churches, mosques and other places of worship, archaeological sites and cultural heritage sites,

*Deeply regretting* the attacks against journalists by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups,

*Reaffirming* that all States have the responsibility to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter and other instruments relating to human rights, and reaffirming also that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the responsibility of Governments,

*Reaffirming also* that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

*Expressing alarm* that acts of terrorism in all forms and manifestations pose a serious threat to the enjoyment of human rights,

*Recognizing with grave concern* that the transnational character of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups poses a threat to the wider region,

*Emphasizing* the need to take appropriate steps to protect members of religious and ethnic minorities, women and children, and members of groups in vulnerable situations, and to provide support to them, as well as to protect civilian and public facilities, such as schools, hospitals, shrines and places of worship,

*Emphasizing also* the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to provide humanitarian assistance and aid to all displaced Iraqi people to ensure that basic needs are met and to alleviate suffering caused by the violence,

*Fully aware* of the obligations of the States Members of the United Nations to prevent and suppress the financing of any terrorist acts,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the systematic violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law resulting from the terrorist acts committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups taking place since 10 June 2014 in several provinces of Iraq, which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and strongly condemns in particular all violence against persons based on their religious or ethnic affiliation, as well as violence against women and children;

2. *Urges* all parties to comply with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law, to protect civilians, in particular women and children, to respect their human rights and to meet their basic needs, which requires providing safe access for humanitarian and medical services to all affected populations;

3. *Stresses* the need for those responsible for such violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights law to be held to account through appropriate mechanisms, and calls upon the Government of Iraq to ensure that all perpetrators are brought to justice;

4. *Expresses* its support for the Iraqi authorities in establishing a new and inclusive Government within the constitutionally mandated time frame;

5. *Calls upon* the new Government of Iraq to promote and protect human rights by involving all components of Iraqi society in a spirit of national unity and reconciliation,

by upholding human rights law and international humanitarian law in its efforts to confront the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and by investigating appropriately all alleged abuses and violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law in Iraq, and continues to support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society, and to take appropriate measures to prevent attacks against persons on the basis of their religion or belief and to prosecute the perpetrators of such attacks;

6. *Urges* all parties not to lend any legitimacy to terrorist acts;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Iraqi authorities to ensure protection of and assistance to those fleeing the areas affected by terrorism, in particular members of groups in a vulnerable situation, including women, children and persons with disabilities, as well as members of ethnic, religious and other minorities;

8. *Commends* the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the partners of Iraq for their continued assistance to the national authorities of Iraq, and urges the international community and all relevant stakeholders to strengthen their efforts in assisting Iraq in restoring peace, stability and security in the areas controlled by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups and in protecting civilians at the request of the Government of Iraq, and notably the threatened minorities, in order to ensure the return of internally displaced persons to their homes;

9. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to the Government of Iraq to assist in promoting and protecting human rights, and to report thereon;

10. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner urgently to dispatch a mission to Iraq to investigate alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated terrorist groups, and to establish the facts and circumstances of such abuses and violations, with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring full accountability, and to provide a report on its findings to the Human Rights Council at an interactive dialogue during its twenty-eighth session, and also requests the High Commissioner to provide an oral update during the twenty-seventh session of the Council on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*2nd meeting  
1 September 2014*

[Adopted without a vote.]

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