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Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-second special session

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I. Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second special session

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, 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.]

II. Organization of work of the twenty-second special session

1. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, and in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council as contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the Council shall hold special sessions, when needed, at the request of a member of the Council with the support of one third of the membership of the Council.
2. On 26 August 2014, the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva requested the convening of a special session of the Human Rights Council on 1 September 2014 on 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.
3. On 26 August 2014, the Permanent Representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the Permanent Representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and the Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva signed jointly a letter expressing support for the above-mentioned request.
4. On 27 August 2014, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva requested the convening of the above-mentioned special session on 1 September 2014.
5. The above-mentioned request was supported by 29 States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The request was also supported by 28 observer States of the Council: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and the State of Palestine.
6. The request was also supported by the following Member and observer States: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Norway, Peru and Uruguay.
7. As more than one third of the membership of the Human Rights Council supported the above-mentioned request, the President of the Council, following consultations with the main sponsors, decided to convene open-ended informative consultations on 29 August 2014 and a special session of the Council on 1 September 2014.

A. Opening and duration of the session

8. The Human Rights Council held its twenty-second special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 1 September 2014. It held two meetings during the session.
9. The twenty-second special session was opened by the President of the Human Rights Council.

B. Attendance

10. The special session was attended by representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the United Nations and other observers, as well as observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

C. Officers

11. At its organizational session of the eighth cycle, on 16 December 2013, the Human Rights Council elected the following officers, who also served as officers for the twenty-second special session:

President:	Baudelaire Ndong Ella (Gabon)
Vice-Presidents:	Alberto D'Alotto (Argentina) Maurizio Enrico Serra (Italy) Dilip Sinha (India)
Vice-President and Rapporteur:	Kateřina Sequeñsová (Czech Republic)

D. Organization of work

12. Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, an open-ended informative consultation was held on 29 August 2014 in preparation for the twenty-second special session.

13. At its 1st meeting, held on 1 September 2014, the Human Rights Council considered the organization of its work, including speaking time limits, which would be three minutes for statements by States Members of the Council and two minutes for statements by observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the Council and other observers. The list of speakers would be drawn up in chronological order of registration. States Members of the Council would be given the floor first, followed by observer States and observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, and observers of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

14. The special session was conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1.

E. Resolution and documentation

15. The resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second special session is reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

16. The list of documents issued for the twenty-second special session is contained in the annex to the present report.

F. Statements

17. At the 1st meeting, on 1 September 2014, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict made a statement.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council made a statement on behalf of the Coordination Committee.

20. At the same meeting, the Minister for Human Rights of Iraq, Mohammed Shyaa Al-Sudani, made a statement for the State concerned.

21. Also at the same meeting, on the same day, statements were made by the following States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)¹ (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, Italy (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following observer States of the Human Rights Council: Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

23. At the 2nd meeting, on the same day, statements were made by the following:

(a) Observer States of the Human Rights Council: Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay, Holy See, State of Palestine;

(b) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(c) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-Hakim Foundation, Al-khoei Foundation, Amnesty International, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Human Rights Watch, Indian Council of South America (CISA) (also on behalf of Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE Internationale), International Confederation of Catholic Charities (Caritas Internationalis) (also on behalf of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Institute of Mary Our Help of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development (VIDES) and Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for

¹ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students)), International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH), International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human-Rights (IIPJHR), Islamic Human Rights Commission, Lutheran World Federation, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Minority Rights Group, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO), Society for Threatened Peoples, Syriac Universal Alliance, Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)), United Nations Watch, World Evangelical Alliance, World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities.

G. Action on the draft proposal

24. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 September 2014, the representative of France introduced draft resolution A/HRC/S-22/L.1, sponsored by France and Iraq and co-sponsored by Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

25. At the same meeting, the Minister for Human Rights of Iraq made a statement for the State concerned.

26. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The Chief of the Finance and Budget Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in relation to the budgetary implications of the draft resolution.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made general comments.

28. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, India and South Africa made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In its statement, the delegation of South Africa disassociated itself from the consensus on the draft resolution.

29. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of resolution S-22/1 as adopted, see chapter I.

III. Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-second special session

30. At the 2nd meeting, held on 1 September 2014, the report was adopted ad referendum and the Rapporteur was entrusted with its finalization.

Annex

Documents issued for the twenty-second special session of the Human Rights Council

In the general series

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|--------------|---|
| A/HRC/S-22/1 | Letter dated 26 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council |
| A/HRC/S-22/2 | Letter dated 26 August 2014 from the coordinators of the Group of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council |
| A/HRC/S-22/3 | Letter dated 27 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council |
| A/HRC/S-22/4 | Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-second special session |

In the limited series

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| A/HRC/S-22/L.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 |
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In the non-governmental series

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/1 | Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status |
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/2 | Joint written statement submitted by World Vision International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Student Christian Federation and the Human Relief Foundation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status |
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/3 | Written statement submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status |
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/4 | Exposición escrita presentada por el Institut de Politique Familiale/ Institute for Family Policy, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial |
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/5 | Written statement submitted by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status |
| A/HRC/S-22/NGO/6 | Joint written statement submitted by the Al-Khoei Foundation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and |

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- the World Federation of KSIMC and the Alulbayt Foundation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/7 Written statement submitted by the Press Emblem Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/8 Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/9 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/10 Written statement submitted by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/11 Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Journalists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/12 Written statement submitted by Asociacion HazteOir.org, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/13 Joint written statement submitted by MADRE and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/14 Written statement submitted by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/15 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
- A/HRC/S-22/NGO/16 Written statement submitted by Terre des Hommes Federation Internationale, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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