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,


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,

_Emphazising_ 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,

_Emphazising 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.]