

# **Kurdistan Regional Government**

## **KRG and UNITAD Work Activities**



**NB: Report has been prepared by the Office of the Coordinator for  
International Advocacy (OCIA)**

**July 2020 – November 2022**

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## **I. Introduction:**

With the call of the government of Iraq to the international community to assist in ensuring that ISIS members are held accountable for their crimes in Iraq, the international community responded to this call with one voice, where the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIS (UNITAD) was established pursuant to Resolution 2379 (2017).

In the Federal Government, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) has been designated to ensure that UNITAD is provided with assistance in order to fulfil its mandate. In the Kurdistan Regional Government, the Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA) has been assigned to be the prime communication office in the bilateral cooperation and coordination between UNITAD and the KRG institutions. In November 2020, the KRG entrusted a committee '*The High Ministerial Committee to Recognize the Atrocities and Crimes Perpetuated by ISIS as Genocide*'.

The Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA) has hereby prepared this report to provide an extensive report on the activities jointly performed by the KRG counterparts and UNITAD. This report also sheds light on the bilateral and roundtable meetings that has taken place between UNITAD delegations and KRG counterparts.

KRG Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA) conveys its appreciation to all KRG institutions and counterparts for their active role and utmost support in relation to the enhancement and the facilitations with regard to KRG's cooperation and coordination with the Investigative Team. The General Directorate of Asayish and the General Directorate of Counter-Terrorism are key partners in providing assistance to the joint KRG and UNITAD.

## **II. The National Coordination Committee (NCC):**

The National Coordination Committee (NCC) was formed by the order of the Divan of the Iraqi Council of Ministers on 20 August 2019 to cooperate and coordinate with UNITAD in order to ensure that sustained assistance is provided to the Investigative Team to fulfil its mandate. The Committee was first headed by the Office Director of the Iraqi Prime Minister. The committee was later being overseen by the Office of the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs. On 7 September 2021, the NCC welcomed its new head, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qahtan Taha Khalaf.

### **Membership within the Committee includes the following:**

1. Issam Hatim Hussein, Deputy National Security Advisor
2. Saad Madhlum Abdullah, Director General, Iraqi Prime Minister's Office
3. Saad Khayoun, Lazm, Representative of the Intelligence Agency
4. Fikrit Hussein Alwan, Representative of the Supreme Judicial Council
5. Dr. Dindar Zebari, KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy
6. Khalil Ibrahim Hussein, The High Commission for Coordination between Governorates
7. Saad Ni'ma Maktoof, Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Legal Department
8. Dr. Ammar Salman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**III: The High Ministerial Committee to Recognize the Atrocities and Crimes Perpetuated by ISIS as Genocide**

The High Ministerial Committee was entrusted by the Kurdistan Regional Government in November 2020 for the purpose of pursuing the following goals: fair trials and the recognition of the atrocities as genocide internationally, in addition to enhancing the coherent coordination between UNITAD and KRG.

**The Committee is chaired by the Minister of Interior with the Membership of the Following Government Officials**

1. Fursat Ahmed, Minister of Justice
2. Kwestan Mohammed Abdullah, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
3. Abdullah Haji Mahmood, Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs
4. Khalid Shwani, Region's Minister for Negotiation Affairs with the Federal Government
5. Dr. Vala Fareed, Region's Minister for Parliament Affairs
6. Dr. Omed Sabah, President of the Divan of Council of Ministers
7. Dr. Amanj Rahim – Secretary of the Divan of Council of Ministers
8. Dr. Abdulhakim Khasrow, Head of the Coordination and Follow – up Committee
9. Safeen Dizayee, Head of the KRG Department of Foreign Relations
10. Dr. Dindar Zebari, the KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy continues to be the KRG Representative to UNITAD and NCC (The KRG Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy continues to be the mainstream governmental office to coordinate with UNITAD)
11. Mona Yokhana Yaqo, President of the Independent Human Rights Commission in Kurdistan Region (attends the regular meetings).

#### **IV: KRG and UNITAD Work Activities from July 2020 – April 2021**

##### **Requests, Responses and Information Transmitted by OCIA to UNITAD and Government Counterparts and Site Visits, Workshops, Roundtable and Bilateral Meetings Arranged by OCIA:**

- August 2020, a survey was distributed to all the relevant KRG entities that have evidentiary documents in relation to ISIS crimes in their possession.
- Prior to Eid Al-Adha 2020, two outstanding requests for information were re-forwarded to the General Director of the Yezidi Affairs and Head of CIGE where UNITAD had requested copies of all the interviews and statements that have been taken by their respective offices from survivors of Da'esh.
- On 7 August 2020, copies of the statements from survivors of Da'esh, collected by the Commission for Investigation and Gathering Evidence were submitted to UNITAD.
- UNITAD's prioritized Request for Information (RFI) was forwarded to the Counter-Terrorism Directorate, Ministry of Peshmerga, Asayish, Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs, Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs and Ministry of Interior (MOI).
- On 24 August 2020, the KRG Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA) gathered the surveys completed by all the relevant departments/ministries and forwarded them to UNITAD.
- On 27 August 2020, response to the prioritized RFI from the Counter-Terrorism Directorate (CT) and Asayish Directorate was submitted to UNITAD. Thus, KRG was successful in submitting the prioritized requested information prior to the deadline (31 August 2020) which was set by UNITAD.
- In July 2020, UNITAD's official letter was transmitted to the Judicial Council regarding request for cooperation. On 2 September 2020, the Judicial Council's formal response was transmitted to UNITAD.
- UNITAD's Chief of Staff, Gerald Casey, was on a mission in Erbil and Duhok in the first week of September 2020. On 13 September 2020, UNITAD reached out to OCIA requesting help with identifying a focal point from the Ministry of Health to assist UNITAD to secure 5 beds in a Duhok hospital as a contingency for UN staff in Duhok.
- Regarding the Judicial Capacity Building project, UNITAD requested the assignment of a focal point from the Judicial Council that could assist throughout the process of the judicial capacity building and provide support.
- On 1 November 2020, the KRG Anti-Terrorism Law and the drafted amendments to this specific law were shared with UNITAD's Senior Legal Officer (SLO).
- As part of the digitization project, UNITAD's team reached out to OCIA to provide names of candidates from KRG project partners to work for UNITAD on the archiving/ digitization project as *Associate Information Management Officer and Archives Assistant*. OCIA forwarded multiple names of candidates from the Ministry of Justice as well as from the Ministry of Peshmerga.

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- In November, OCIA transmitted a list of UNITAD's questions addressed to the Counter-Terrorism Directorate. UNITAD's list of questions was derived from information reports that CT had previously submitted to UNITAD in relation to the prioritized request for information.
- In November 2020, OCIA requested UNITAD's Senior Legal Officer to provide advice and guidance on the international elements that should be incorporated into a domestic legislation.
- On 2 December, UNITAD's SLO shared an outline providing features that could be incorporated into the KRG legislation to domesticate international crimes.
- In January 2021, UNITAD's project manager, Shadrack Katuu, submitted an overview on the digitization project progress to KRG.
- On 19 January 2021, the Commission for Investigation and Gathering Evidence (CIGE) submitted ten additional hardcopies of statements of survivors to UNITAD.
- After these efforts, approval was given for the participation of KRG officials in the burial ceremony in Kojo. Following authorization from His Excellency KRG Prime Minister, the Region's delegation headed by the KRG representative to UNITAD participated and delivered KRG's speech in the Yezidi burial ceremony on 6 February 2021.
- In January 2021, UNITAD submitted a protocol document in connection to detainee interviews in order to prepare for interviewing those detainees that are in the custody of the KRG.
- On 10 February, UNITAD submitted a list of questions directed to Counter-Terrorism Directorate in relation to the priority topic regarding (ISIS's Sexual Slavery Networks).
- On 14 February 2021, the High Ministerial Committee reached a final decision where it was unanimously agreed that the Digitization/Archiving project in the KRG should be centralized in the allocated space at the MOI.
- On 10 March 2021, OCIA received an official request letter from the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD addressed to the Head of CIGE, Judge Ayman Mustafa.
- In March, UNITAD shared two documents in relation to the digitization requirements from KRG project partners and the requirements from MOI.

In March 2021, the following documents were shared with UNITAD's legal team:

- A copy of KRG draft legislation in Arabic language
- A copy of the "Rules of Procedure and Evidence Collection"
- A copy of notes in both Arabic and English languages, prepared by the legal team in the Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA)
- Following security clearance for two additional KRG candidates to work with UNITAD as national investigative judges and prosecutors, the P11 forms and the CVs of two additional candidates were shared with UNITAD on 18 March 2021:
  1. Judge Bashdar Majid Ahmed
  2. Judge Abdulsattar Mohammed Ramadhan

- In line with KRG's commitment to support UNITAD's investigations and collection of evidence to promote accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIS, the KRG High Ministerial Committee provided approval on UNITAD's request for detainee interviews to take place in UNITAD premises. In accordance with this decision, the KRG representative to UNITAD informed the investigative team about KRG's official stance with regard to this specific request.
- On 4 April 2021, a copy of Korek Telecommunications Company's official response letter to the court order regarding the call data records of Korek's cell towers in the Kojo village in Sinjar from 1 August 2014 to 20 August 2014 was transmitted to UNITAD.
- On 29 July 2020, a meeting took place at the Ministry of Interior, chaired by the KRG Representative to UNITAD. The participants included representatives from UNITAD along with representatives from each of the following entities and ministries.
- An initial meeting was arranged between UNITAD and Asayish's Director General, Kak Asmat Arqoushi in August 2020 to highlight future cooperation between the Investigative Team and Asayish.
- The second week of August included meetings between UNITAD and the Deputy Minister of Peshmerga for the purpose of discussing the possibility of interviewing Military Commanders, who were operational in and around Sinjar during Da'esh occupation.
- On the same week, another meeting took place between UNITAD and the Deputy Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs.
- The third week of August 2020 included meetings with General Bahjat Selki from Zeravani and a meeting with the Vice – President of the Kurdistan Region Sheikh Jaafar Sheikh Mustafa.
- Another meeting was scheduled for UNITAD on 19 August 2020 with the Commander-in-Chief of Makhmur and Gwer frontline, Sirwan Barzani
- On 1 September 2020, OCIA held a meeting with the Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs in the presence of a number of parliament members and the Head of the High Council of Women Affairs.
- On 6 September 2020, a list was submitted to UNITAD that included the names of the focal points of all the relevant ministries and departments for the purpose of maximizing the benefits of UNITAD trainings to all the KRG institutions and bodies.
- UNITAD's Chief of Staff, Gerald Casey met with Asayish in mid-September 2021.
- On 8 October 2020, a training workshop given by UNITAD was arranged to all the relevant ministries and departments to receive knowledge about the UN Security Council, Tribunals, and UNITAD's mandate, composition and activities.
- On 12 October 2020, a roundtable meeting was arranged between UNITAD's technical focal point. For the archiving/digitization project with KRG technical- the objective of this meeting was for UNITAD's team to explain the next steps.
- On 12 October 2020, a meeting was arranged for UNITAD's delegation headed by the Special Assistant to the Special Advisor to meet with Head of the Kurdistan Region Judicial Council, Judge Bangin Qassim.



- On the same day, another meeting was organized for UNITAD's delegation with the Head of Counter-Terrorism Directorate, General Dilshad.
- On 13 October 2020, a round-table meeting for UNITAD's Senior Legal Officer, Christopher Gosnell was organized to meet with the relevant persons and legal experts within the KRG.
- On 27 October 2020, UNITAD's Head of the Financial Tracking Unit met with focal points from the Counter-Terrorism Directorate.
- On 25 October 2020, OCIA received official request for site visits from UNITAD. In early November 2020, the following meetings and site visits took place accordingly:
  - o UNITAD's meeting with Asayish Focal Point
  - o UNITAD's meeting with CT focal points
  - o UNITAD's site visit to the CIGE
  - o UNITAD's site visit to the Yezidi Rescue Office
  - o UNITAD's site visit to the Public Prosecutor's Office
- With the start of the New Year, UNITAD resumed its missions to Erbil. On 17 January 2021, the first delegation arrived which was composed of UNITAD's Senior Legal Officer, the Special Assistant to the Special Advisor, and the Head of the Digitization Project and the Head of investigations into ISIS crimes committed against the minorities.
- On 17 January 2021, a meeting took place between UNITAD's delegation and Counter-Terrorism Directorate to finalize CTD's participation in the digitization/ archiving project.
- On 19 January 2021, two separate meetings were arranged for UNITAD's Head of Investigations into Crimes Committed against the Minorities with each of the region's minister for Minority Affairs and the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs. Both counterparts agreed on several lines of enquires to enhance UNITAD's investigations concerning ISIS crimes committed against the minorities.
- On the same day, a meeting was arranged for UNITAD's delegation with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) where MOI and UNITAD reiterated the importance of speeding up the digitization project.
- On 25 January 2021, a meeting was arranged between the region's minister for Parliament Affairs with UNITAD's Senior Legal Officer to discuss KRG's draft legislation.
- On 15 February 2021, the KRG representative to UNITAD, received UNITAD's Head of Witness Protection Unit and UNITAD's Chief of Security where discussions involved the necessary procedures for detainee interviews.
- On 17 February 2021, OCIA arranged a meeting between UNITAD's Digitization Team and the relevant focal points where initial training and capacity building session took place. The participants included the following project partners (Asayish, Counter-Terrorism Directorate, Public Prosecutor's Office, CIGE, Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Peshmerga, Yezidi Rescue Office and Zeravani.

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- Regarding UNITAD's request for conducting detainee interviews in UNITAD premises, separate meetings were arranged for UNITAD's delegation with the competent authorities (Counter-Terrorism and Asayish) on 16 February 2021.

**V. KRG and UNITAD Work Activities Covering the Months  
of April 2021 – June 2021**

- On 20, 25 and 27 April 2021, in response to the Special Advisor's request letter on inviting and identifying senior investigative judges and prosecutors to participate in UNITAD's online training program on International Criminal Law (ICL); OCIA forwarded multiple list of names to UNITAD that were provided by the Judicial Council and the Public Prosecutor's Office.
- On 21 April 2021, UNITAD sent an official letter to the Head of CIGE, Judge Ayman Mustafa, requesting relevant data and GIS mapping systems in relation to Da'esh attack on Sinjar on and around 3 August 2014.
- On 27 April 2021, UNITAD addressed an official request letter to the Head of Asayish Directorate, requesting permission to interview seven identified ISIS members that are in the custody of KRG competent authorities.
- On 18 May 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD received Albert Joseph, the Deputy Investigations Coordinator and Head of the Mosul Investigations of UNITAD. His primary engagement with the KRG would be on Mosul and specifically Badoush prison.
- UNITAD's Digitization Team provided a two-day workshop on 25 and 26 May to all the beneficiaries for the purpose of implementing the practical steps of the digitization process of the documents as well as physical and digital archiving.
- In late May 2021, multiple roundtable meetings took place between MOI, OCIA, KRG legal experts and UNITAD to draft a legislation that enables MOI to establish 'Witness Protection Department'. On 9 June, the final roundtable meeting took place.
- On 26 May 2021, UNITAD held a second meeting with Asayish to discuss the route map to move forward with respect to detainee interviews.
- On 14 June 2021, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) shared with OCIA the CVs of the three candidates of Germany, Canada and Sweden who were nominated to become the new Head of UNITAD.
- On 16 June 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD received representatives of Yazda organization and the Yezidi survivors' network.
- On 16 June 2021, OCIA arranged a meeting between Yazda organization and Yezidi survivors' network with the Legal Committee in the Parliament. In this meeting, it was agreed that Yazda will hold consultations with their network of NGOs that represent and advocate for the rights of the Yezidis and other minority groups. Yazda will compile all the comments into one document and submit it to the Parliament to be taken into consideration.
- Following UNITAD and Asayish meeting on 26 May and following their bilateral agreements. On 16 June, UNITAD sent an official letter requesting the case files of the seven identified ISIS members that they intend to interview.
- On 13 June 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD was interviewed by Le Monde newspaper for an article on UNITAD.

- On 15 June 2021, UNITAD addressed a letter to the KRG Ministry of Health requesting authorization to establish a partnership with Hawler Psychiatric Hospital, and the Girls and Women's Treatment and Support Centre in Duhok as part of UNITAD's commitment to ongoing care of witnesses of Da'esh crimes and capacity building of treatment providers.
- On 23 June 2021, KRG's Representative to UNITAD received the representative of UNITAD's Forensic Unit. Areas of potential cooperation were highlighted.
- On 24 June 2021, OCIA arranged a visit for UNITAD's Forensic Unit to MOI's Forensic Lab.
- On 27 June 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD received UNITAD's Head of Sinjar investigations as well as UNITAD's call data record (CDR) analyst.
- On 28 June 2021, per UNITAD's request, OCIA arranged a meeting between UNITAD and representatives of Korek Telecommunications Company.
- In June 2021, UNITAD submitted a project initiation document (PID) on the digitization project in order to convene the project's steering committee's first meeting, the meeting took place on 30 June at MOI where the purpose of the meeting was to review the PID and agree on the necessary changes required in order to sign off an agreement. The members of the Steering Committee, include the followings:
  - ❖ Dr. Dindar Zebari (KRG executive and sponsor of the project)
  - ❖ Dr. Sami Jalal (MoI executive and implementing partner)
  - ❖ Michael Pauloski/ El Hadji Babacarw (UNITAD executive)
  - ❖ Hoger Bapir (MoI project manager)
  - ❖ Romain Ledauphin (UNITAD project manager)
- On 30 June 2021, KRG's Representative to UNITAD received UNITAD's Chief of Staff, where areas of cooperating and outstanding matters were highlighted.
- Following the approval of KRG's Council of Ministers on the draft legislation on 28 April 2021 to establish a criminal court in the Kurdistan Region to hold ISIS accountable for committing international crimes (war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide), the bill was submitted to the parliament where the first reading took place in early May. Given the importance of this law and taking into account the political, security and international scope, the Kurdistan Region Parliament held four extensive meetings with concerned parties to ensure that the broadest range of observations and comments are taken into consideration. The following include a brief on each of the parliament meetings:
  - **First Meeting: 17 May 2021**  
(Attended by the Minister of State for Parliament Affairs, and the KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy and Representative to UNITAD)  
In the first rounds of the discussions, concerns about the political and the security ramifications displayed. Nevertheless, at the end of the meeting, they were convinced that the KRG shall seize his opportunity and pass its own legislation.

- **Second Meeting: 31 May 2021**

(Parliament's Legal Committee Meeting with UNITAD's legal experts)

In this meeting, UNITAD made it clear that they will not partake in providing financial support to the court. However, they said that channel can be opened for international funds similar to other countries' experiences. UNITAD demonstrated support for the legislation. They also reiterated that the UN Security Council welcomes the progress KRG has made.

- **Third Meeting: 7 June 2021**

(Parliament's Meeting with the Judicial Council)

This meeting was attended by the Heads of the Appellate courts of Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah; where both parties exchanged their views and observations on the legislation.

**Fourth Meeting: 14 June 2021** (Parliament's Meeting with KR Scholars)

This was the parliament's final meeting before referring the bill to the Legal Committee, which is entitled to prepare a report in preparation for the second reading of the bill.

- On 28 June 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD forwarded a letter to UNITAD regarding the Supreme Court's advisory opinion, the letter reflected precursory Observations and commentaries prepared by OCIA in this respect.

**VI. KRG and UNITAD Work Activities Covering the Months of  
July 2021 – September 2021**

- On 1 and 2 July 2021, representatives of OCIA along with members of the NCC participated in a two-day workshop that was held by UNITAD in Erbil. The workshop covered the following themes:
  - ❖ linking the excavations to UNITAD investigative activities
  - ❖ reviewing the lessons learned from Solagh and Badoush
  - ❖ coordinating the outreach events for future return of remains (RoR) ceremonies
  - ❖ going through the lessons learned on the RoR to Kojo
  - ❖ Leveraging and utilizing psychosocial supports before, during and after events
  - ❖ agreeing on checklist for activities to be undertaken for future RoR to Kojo
- On 4 July 2021, OCIA arranged a meeting between UNITAD and the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs for the purpose of discussing the process of detainee interviews.
- On 5 July 2021, the official response from the Ministry of Health (MoH) was transmitted to UNITAD where MoH had welcomed UNITAD's initiative and request regarding the provision of support to KRG institutions to engage with psychologists of the witness protection and support unit from UNITAD.
- On 6 July 2021, the joint KRG MOI/UNITAD team conducted a site visit at CIGE followed by a comprehensive site assessment at the Office of the Rescued Yezidi Abductees on 15 July.
- On 26 July 2021, the KRG High Ministerial Committee held a meeting where the KRG Representative to UNITAD submitted the quarterly report on KRG and UNITAD work developments and activities. In this meeting, the following were highlighted:
  - *KRG has decided to continue its cooperation and support to UNITAD*
  - *Regarding KRG's draft law on the establishment of a criminal court in the KR to hold ISIS members accountable for committing international crimes (Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity), members of the committee agreed that the KR parliament shall proceed with its work and consultations on the bill*
  - *The digitization project shall continue*
  - *KRG approves on UNITAD's request to interview detainees and stands ready in providing a convenient KR facility to assist UNITAD to conduct the interview*
  - *MoLSA shall be informed of the date of the interviews and shall receive a list of the names of the detainees that UNITAD intends to interview well in advance*

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- *KRG approves on UNITAD's request to share information with third states conditioned by UNITAD's disclosure on which countries it intends to share the information with*
  - *Requesting UNITAD to identify the approximate number of case files prepared by the Investigative Team and that will be shared with the Regional and the Federal authorities*
  - *The Committee welcomed the Belgian Parliament's resolution to recognize and condemn the crime of genocide perpetrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria against the Yezidis beginning in 2014*
- 
- On 27 July 2021, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations conveyed the decision of the Government of Iraq to the UN to identify Mr. Christian Ritscher of Germany as the new Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD. The KRG Representative to UNITAD informed and updated the rest of the members of the High Ministerial Committee on GOI's decision accordingly.
  - On 27 July 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD published a clarification on the Federal Supreme Court's Advisory Opinion.
  - On 28 July 2021, the second steering committee meeting took place in the Council of Ministers.
  - On 8 August 2021, OCIA sent out official letters to four project partners (Asayish, Peshmerga – Intelligence Directorate, Public Prosecutor's Office and Zeravani) .
  - On 8 August 2021, OCIA arranged a meeting for UNITAD's digitization team with the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs to introduce the digitization project and to assess the size and type of documents and records in the possession of the aforementioned ministry.
  - On 5 August 2021, the joint KRG MOI/UNITAD team held a meeting with ICTech Company to discuss the software requirement specifications in relation to the records management.
  - Per the discussions and the agreements that took place between UNITAD and Korek Telecommunications Company on 28 June 2021, OCIA transmitted an official letter from UNITAD addressed directly to Korek.
  - On 12 August 2021, the office of the Special Advisor contacted the KRG Representative to UNITAD, requesting KRG's permission and approval to share some specific information with third states.
  - On 23 August 2021, OCIA arranged a meeting between Asayish and the joint KRG MOI/UNITAD team. In the meeting Asayish reiterated their readiness to be part of the digitization project and indicated that their records in relation to Daesh crimes can be transferred to the allocated centralized space at the MOI upon the commencement of the project.
  - On 24 August 2021, OCIA transmitted a letter from UNITAD to the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs where the Investigative Team had requested all information, case files and excavation reports available in relation to the excavation carried out by the Medical Legal Unit of the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal affairs of the mass graves in between Berdia, Sinuni, and Khanasor.
  - On 1 September 2021, UNITAD deployed 3 scanners, 3 computers and a UPS at the MOI in the framework of the Kurdistan Region Archiving and Digitization Project.
  - On 2 September 2021, the Third Steering Committee meeting took place where UNITAD's Chief of Staff Gerald Casey attended the meeting due to the decisiveness of this meeting on the success of the archiving and digitization project

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in the Kurdistan Region. In this meeting, KRG and UNITAD agreed on the following:

- *Establishment of Joint Committee – MOI & UNITAD to identify the information which will be included in the database. Specify the criteria on the kind of information in regards of criminal, evidence, and victims and assist in defining the taxonomy for the data base*
  - *The KRG would identify a local company to design the data base for the data that will be digitized and the associated costs will be covered by the KRG. It was agreed that the funds (75-100K) set aside for the system by UNITAD would be allocated to the project on additional equipment*
  - *It was agreed that the additional equipment would be delivered within 90 days to proceed with the digitization of data that will be centralized at the MOI. In parallel the IT Data base will be developed and expected to be operational within the same timeframe*
  - *Commence digitization at CIGE offices and provide technical assistance and capacity building to MoI in archiving and digitization related activities*
- On 7 September 2021, representatives of OCIA participated in the regular NCC meetings where members welcomed the new head of the NCC (Mr. Qahtan Taha Khalaf, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). In this meeting, the discussions on the renewal of UNITAD’s mandate were prioritized.
  - In the third steering committee meeting, it was agreed that some of the equipment will be transferred to Duhok in order to be installed at the Commission for Investigating and Gathering Evidence (CIGE).
  - On 4 September 2021, representatives of MOI and UNITAD’s Digitization Team met in Duhok where 2 heavy duty scanners, one digital sender, three laptops and 2 UPS were delivered to CIGE.
  - On 7 September 2021, a joint MOI/UNITAD technical meeting was organized regarding the database being developed under MOI’s lead and the metadata scheme.
  - On 9 September 2021, test of the digitization workflow was conducted, recruitment process initiated with 6 CIGE staff, it was also agreed that digitization will start on 12 September and statistics will be gathered on a daily basis (number of pages and number of cases).
  - It is anticipated that UNITAD will host an event in the near future with the EU sponsors to present the achievements to date and the challenges that have been encountered by the programme.
  - UNITAD has requested a meeting with KRG’s Threat Financing Unit (TFU) to seek assistance in understanding specific financial transactions by entities and persons who provided material support to ISIS and were/are based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). On 15 September 2021, OCIA addressed a letter to the General Director of Counter-Terrorism requesting assistance and facilitations in order to connect UNITAD with TFU.
  - On 17 September 2021, the United Nations Security Council unanimously renewed UNITAD’s mandate upon the request of the Iraqi Government.
  - At an event held at the University of Duhok titled, “Building Community Empathy to Prevent Atrocities” on 16 September 2021, UNITAD shed light on the role of its psychologists in addressing the significance of empathy and building resilience among Yezidi survivors of Da’esh crimes in Iraq.



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- On 27 September 2021, OCIA forwarded a list of additional equipment requested by MOI to UNITAD in relation to the record management system. This request for additional equipment came following and based on the agreements that were made between KRG and UNITAD in the third steering committee meeting which took place on 2 September 2021.
- On 22 September 2021, in a request from UNITAD it was indicated that the Investigative Team has identified five witness statements received from the Yezidi Rescue Office that are responsive to a request UNITAD has received from the Swedish Prosecution Authority (SPA) pursuant to UNITAD's mandate. The SPA is seeking this information in support of their investigation into the role of Swedish foreign terrorist fighters in crimes committed by ISIS against the Yezidi community.
- On 30 September 2021, OCIA arranged a second meeting between Korek and the Investigative Team where it was agreed that Korek will provide all the CDRs from its cell sites within 25 km radius from the Kojo cell site for 1-20 August 2014 as well as a list of cell sites owned by Korek that are within a 30 km radius of the 39 geographic areas that were previously identified by UNITAD.

**VII. KRG and UNITAD Work Activities Covering the Months of**  
**October 2021 – March 2022**

- On 2 October 2021, the Office of the Special Advisor informed KRG's Representative to UNITAD, Dr. Dindar Zebari, that in addition to Sweden, each of the authorities of the Netherlands and France have requested to receive the same five witness statements that the authorities of Sweden had previously requested. (These five witness statements were taken by the Yezidi Rescue Office and were submitted to UNITAD through OCIA in mid-2020). KRG Representative to UNITAD informed the Head of the High Ministerial Committee accordingly.
- In early October, OCIA forwarded to the Ministry of Interior the following UNITAD guidelines to be shared with the rest of the digitization project partners:
  - Guidelines on the identification of records
  - Guidelines on movement and transfer of records
  - Guidelines on preparation, organization and storage of records
- On 5 October 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD, received UNITAD's Chief of Staff. In this meeting, the following topics were discussed and underlined: KRG's draft law, share of information with third states, Region's candidates to work as national judicial investigators in UNITAD, the second return of Yezidi remains and the inclusion of KRG in Kojo ceremony.
- On 6 and 7 October 2021, the fourth Steering Committee meeting took place. It was agreed that by early November, KRG and UNITAD shall conclude the following activities:
  - Identification, preparation and transfer of the entities' records to the allocated centralized space
  - Readiness of the database management system (it was previously agreed that MOI will take the responsibility of the expenses and the preparation of the database management system)
  - Deployment of the additional requested equipment
- On 11 October 2021, OCIA re-forwarded the CVs and P11 forms of the four KRG candidates to work as national judicial investigators in UNITAD to the Chief of Staff of the Investigative Team.
- On 19 October 2021, and based on previous agreements made between UNITAD and Korek , the latter provided a list of all its cell sites (1710) within a 30 km radius of the 39 geographic areas that were previously identified by the UN Investigative Team.
- On 19 October 2021, OCIA transmitted to UNITAD, the official response and report of the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs (MoMAA) in relation to the excavation carried out by the Medical Legal Unit of MoMAA of the mass graves in between Berdia, Sinuni, and Khanasor.

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- On 20 October 2021, OCIA shared the CVs of six applicants (nominated by MOI) to work on the digitization activities at CIGE for the purpose of speeding up the digitization process. On 1 November, the Investigative Team stopped the recruitment process and indicated that considering the significant progress at CIGE, the work would finish before they can complete the human recourses process.
- On 26 October 2021, the KRG Representative to UNITAD conveyed the official response of the Regional Government and its approval on UNITAD's request to share five specific witness statements with the authorities of Sweden, France and the Netherlands. On 1 November, UNITAD indicated that in addition to these three states, each of Canada and the US have also requested the same five witness statements.
- On 27 October 2021, UNITAD requested KRG's security clearance for a candidate to be recruited by the Investigative Team. Duhok Asayish confirmed that the candidate has been cleared security wise.
- In the first week of November, at the request of UNITAD and during the SA's visit to Duhok, OCIA arranged a visit for the new Special Advisor to CIGE to be introduced to the digitization activities and the developments at CIGE. It was indicated by the Special Advisor, that the digitization/ archiving process and the work of CIGE meets international standards.
- The new Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD met with His Excellency KRG Prime Minister on 3 November 2021, the following were highlighted:
  - A large number of information and documents have been shared and submitted to UNITAD
  - Digitization project is undergoing successfully
  - Share of information with third states
  - KRG sustains its commitment and approval on detainee interviews by UNITAD
  - Discussions concentrated mainly on the draft legislation as the process was initially supported by UNITAD, His Excellency Prime Minister requested UNITAD's intervention as without the establishment of a court, the efforts of cooperation will go in vain
  - The role of KRG and the support of His Excellency Prime Minister to UNITAD's work was highlighted by the Special Advisor
- On 4 November 2021 and at the request of UNITAD, OCIA arranged a meeting between the new Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, Christian Ritscher and the new head of the Kurdistan Region Judicial Council, Judge Abduljabbar Aziz Hassan. In the meeting, both parties stressed on increasing capacity building opportunities for KR judges and prosecutors.
- Digitization activities at CIGE were officially completed on 7 November 2021 where 73912 pages were digitized (a total of 2506 cases).
- On 8 November, KRG and UNITAD's fifth steering committee meeting in relation to the archiving and digitization project took place. In this meeting ICTech Company gave a presentation on the development of the database where UNITAD also presented their observations and it was agreed that technical meetings will take place between MOI, ICTech and UNITAD to improve the database.

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- Regarding UNITAD's request for KRG's authorization to include 21 statements (previously obtained by the UN Investigative Team from CIGE and Yezidi Rescue Office via OCIA) in UNITAD's structural brief to be shared with states – OCIA requested UNITAD to identify and indicate which countries it intends to share the structural brief with. UNITAD listed the following countries: Sweden, Finland, France, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, UK, US, Canada.
- On 23 November 2021, UNITAD held an outreach event at camp Qadia with the survivors and the families of the victims in support for the Kojo Return of Remains. Prior to the event and at the request of UNITAD on 17 November, OCIA liaised with the office the Governor of Duhok to notify the management team of Camp Qadia and Barzani Charity Foundation to provide assistance to the UN Investigative Team before and during the outreach event. CIGE represented KRG at this outreach event.
- On 24 November, a second outreach event took place in Duhok with the presence of members of the Federal Government, UNITAD, NGOs, support groups, families of victims and members of KRG (Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs, CIGE, DFR, representative of Duhok governor and KRG representative to UNITAD). This event was in support for the second return of Yezidi remains to Kojo.
- On 22 November 2021, OCIA informed UNITAD on the importance of ensuring KRG's participation within the Iraqi delegation in discussions and events taking place at the UN headquarters in relation to ISIS crimes as UNITAD along with the Iraqi and German permanent missions hosted a special event on '*Financing ISIS Crimes*' in New York on 2 December 2021.
- On 23 November 2021, UNITAD reached out to OCIA requesting the assistance of KRG in finding a suitable and secure building to be used as offices by UNITAD staff in Erbil (the capacity of the staff will be between 50-60 staff members). OCIA shared the request with the Head of the High Ministerial Committee accordingly.
- On 24 November, a meeting was arranged for UNITAD's digitization team and MOI. In the meeting both parties agreed on a schedule for the deployment and configuration of the digitization equipment and the reception and processing the records of the Yezidi Rescue Office. Digitization activities at the allocated centralized space (MOI) officially started on 1 December 2021.
- On 7 December, the Investigative Team shared with OCIA a concept notes between UNITAD and CIGE to jointly work on a project; UNITAD indicated that the purpose of the project is to work with CIGE on improving CIGE's analytical products.
- On 9 December 2021, the second return of Yezidi remains to Kojo took place which included the remains of 41 individuals. Speeches at the event were given by the Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government as well as the Representative of the Presidency of the Region.
- On 12 December 2021, a meeting took place between the NCC and UNITAD (representatives from OCIA participated in this meeting). Both parties NCC and UNITAD agreed on the need to have a clear strategic plan for UNITAD's cooperation with Iraq.
- On 12 and 13 January 2022, UNITAD and NCC strategic discussions workshop took place where KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy participated as KRG's representative.
- On 25 January 2022, OCIA, CIGE and UNITAD held a meeting to discuss the initiation of the Evidence analysis project. Following this meeting, UNITAD shared with OCIA a concept notes on the project which was in turn shared with the Head of the High Ministerial Committee to seek the official approval of the KRG for the commencement of this project.

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- On 27 January, UNITAD requested the onward transmission of eight Yezidi Rescue Office statements to be shared with five countries. Furthermore, UNITAD also requested approval on the onward transmission of five other witness statements received from the Yezidi Rescue Office to be shared with the German Federal Prosecutor's Office and the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation.
- On 6 February 2022, UNITAD organized a symbolic ceremony at the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council to mark the successful completion of two basic and advanced courses. A distinguished group of judges from the Kurdistan Region who had successfully completed the courses also participated in the ceremony.
- On 12 February 2022, the KRG Coordinator to UNITAD on behalf of His Excellency Prime Minister participated in the exhumation ceremony of the victims of Hardan massacre in Northern Sinjar Mountain.
- On 10 March 2022, KRG Representative to UNITAD made a formal request to both UNITAD and the NCC on the importance of including KRG representation in the Berlin outreach event; supporting Iraq's role in promoting accountability for ISIS international crimes which is scheduled to take place 13 April 2022.

**VIII. KRG and UNITAD Work Activities Covering the Months of**  
**March 2022 – July 2022**

- On April 13, 2022, a meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, to investigate the financial aspects of core international crimes and their definition in the legal framework, with the participation of the KRG Representative to UNITAD, the Special Advisor of UNITAD, and representatives from the NCC and the German Federal Foreign Office.
- On 17 April 2022, KRG Representative to UNITAD welcomed Caroline Buisman, a legal officer to UN and the supervisor of digital and physical archiving in UNITAD Iraq. They discussed the progress so far made in collecting and archiving documents pertinent to ISIS crimes, and the next upcoming in this respect.
- On April 25, 2022, Michael Pauloski informed OCIA about some key operational items to follow-up and recent exchanges between UNITAD and KRG through an email. In his reply, Dr. Zebari notified Michael that Korek has commenced to work on CDRs that has been requested by UNITAD from cell sites within 25 km radius in Kojo.
- On May 23, 2022, a meeting was held between the coordinator for international advocacy Dr. Dindar Zebari and chief of service investigation of UNITAD Miss. Defne Akca, during the meeting Dr. Zebari emphasized that UNITAD should get more engaged with OCIA as a representative of KRG to UNITAD and to NCC, and OCIA has to be invited officially and directly partake in the meetings. Nevertheless, the efforts of OCIA and KRG was highlighted and appreciated by the representative of UNITAD in their collaboration to them.
- On June 10, 2022, an Iraqi delegation and the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in collaboration with the permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations held a meeting in the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting entitled "The Methods of Mass Killing, ISIS Crimes in Iraq and Speicher as an example". Dr. Dindar Zebari, the representative of the KRG and the representative to NCC and to UNITAD attended the meeting and during the meeting he delivered remarks on the cooperation between the KRG and UNITAD across the various fields.
- On the side-lines of their visit, Dr. Zebari met with other UN officials and diplomats, in addition to the US Deputy Representative to the United Nations, on Monday 13 June, they met Mr. Axel (DPPA Iraq desk) at his office in UN headquarters. During the meeting they discussed the role of the KRG in welcoming more than 2 million IDPs and refugees and the sacrifices of Peshmerga forces in liberating areas under ISIS's control. Dr. Zebari, shed light on the determination of the Ninth cabinet reforms to consolidate comprehensive reforms, and also underscored the efforts of the KRG to adhere to human rights principles and referred to the approval of the Regional Plan for Human Rights in the KRG.
- On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, the KRG coordinator for International Advocacy had a meeting with Ambassador Richard Mills, the US deputy permanent representative. They touched on fighting terrorism, accommodating ISIS victims and coordinating with UNITAD, and stressed KRG's commitment to hold ISIS accountable for international crimes.
- On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, Dr. Zebari met with Ms. Ana Izar, the head of the UN Counter-Terrorism and discussed the regional plan, Peshmergas' resilience in fighting

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terrorism, mechanisms to prevent re-emergence of terrorism, KRG-UNITAD cooperation, and the Side-lined Shingal Agreement.

- On June 14, 2022, Dr. Dindar Zebari also met with Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide at the UN headquarters. During the meeting the crimes that were committed against Kurdish people were discussed. Dr. Zebari emphasized that Kurds have paid a heavy price for the violations against humanity such as Anfal, chemical attacks, destroying villages and cities until the crimes perpetrated by Alqaeda and ISIS, and Peshmerga forces played a great role in the war against terrorism and sacrificed thousands of lives.
- On June 10, 2022, an Iraqi delegation and the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in collaboration with the permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations held a meeting in the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was entitled "The Methods of Mass Killing, ISIS Crimes in Iraq and Speicher as an example". Dr. Dindar Zebari, the representative of the KRG to NCC and to UNITAD attended the meeting and during the meeting he delivered remarks on the cooperation between the KRG and UNITAD across the various fields, including digitization project, excavation and exhumation of mass graves, return of remains, rescuing abductees, information sharing, detainees and witnesses interview, sharing call data records (CDRs), the efforts to establish a specialized court in the KRI to prosecute ISIS detainees for international crimes, and transmission of case files to the third countries.
- On the sidelines of their visit, Dr. Zebari met with other UN officials and diplomats, on Monday 13 June, the head of the Office of Coordinator for International Advocacy, Dr. Dindar Zebari met with Mr. Axel Wennmann, the senior Political Officer of the Iraqi team in the Middle East and West Asia Division in the United Nations. The meeting focused on welcoming nearly two million refugees and IDPs in the Kurdistan Region and the role of the Peshmerga forces and their sacrifices in liberating the areas from ISIS, especially in the Nineveh Plain.
- On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, the Head of the Office of Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA), Dr. Dindar Zebari met with the US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council, Ambassador Richard Mills, to discuss reforms and the role of the Kurdistan Region in advocating for the recognition of genocide carried by ISIS in Iraq. Dr. Zebari spoke about the role of the KRG in the war against ISIS terrorists, welcoming IDPs and refugees, providing services and support. Addressing the security situation in some of the liberated areas remains a priority for the Kurdistan Regional Government, which Dr. Zebari highlighted depends on the implementation of the Sinjar agreement. Dr. Zebari also outlined efforts by the Kurdistan Regional Government to work closely with UNITAD.
- On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, Dr. Zebari met with the Head of the Victims of Terrorism Program at the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), Ms. Ana Izar, to discuss ways to effectively address ongoing threats posed by the Islamic State (ISIS) and normalize the situation in the Sinjar region. Dr. Zebari highlighted the continuous threat of terrorism the Kurdistan Region has faced since 2003, most recently in the fight against ISIS. He noted that all communities in the region, especially Yazidis, have suffered tremendously at the hands of these terrorist groups. As a response to these acts, the Kurdistan Region Parliament enacted the Anti-Terrorism Law. Dr. Zebari reiterated the support of the Kurdistan Regional Government for the work of the UN, he noted the positive impact of coordinating with UNITAD focused on information exchange, evidence collection, training.

- On June 14, 2022, the Head of the Office of Coordination for International Advocacy, Dr. Dindar Zebari met with Ms. Alice Nderitu, the under-Secretary-General and the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary General for the Elimination of Genocide. The KRG Coordinator highlighted the crimes committed against Kurdish people and said: the Kurdistan Region has made a heavy sacrifice in the fight against terrorism. Peshmerga forces displayed unprecedented resilience and bravery in repelling ISIS's expansionism. In another part of the meeting Dr. Zebari pointed to the inclusion of genocide in Iraqi domestic laws, adherence to human rights principles highlighted by the KRG coordinator and explained that the approval of the Regional Plan for Human Rights by the Prime Minister shows the determination of the Kurdistan Regional Government to protect human rights principles, individual and collection freedoms.



## **IX. KRG and UNITAD Work Activities Covering the Months of July 2022 – November 2022**

- On July 3, 2022, Dr. Dindar Zebari, KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy received Mr. Christian Ritscher, the Special Advisor of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh (UNITAD). Both the KRG Coordinator and UNITAD's Special Advisor expressed gratitude for the timely accomplishment of the requirements that underpin the legal basis for holding ISIS terrorists accountable for committing the core crimes under international law – genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- On 13 July, 2022, the investigative team shared KRG-UNITAD monthly update report with OCIA covering April-June 2022, from Erbil and Duhok offices. The report highlights the following activities during the aforementioned date, Psychosocial support to the survivor community, capacity building for mental health practitioners in health centers, hospitals + civil society organizations. Conducting interviews of witnesses and victims of ISIS crimes against the Yazidi community, victims of Badush prison, and women and girls from the Yazidi and Shia Turkmen community.
- On 26 July, 2022, a meeting was held at OCIA between Dr. Dindar Zebari and Kak Hogir, from the Ministry of Interior. Kak Hogir shared a report about the archiving/digitization project, the project from CIGE was completed on Dec 10, 2021, in which 9801 files from 73912 pages have been archived with the cooperation of UNITAD'S office in Duhok. As for the Office of the Rescued Abducted Yazidis the project was completed on April 3, 2022, in which 3543 files from 5393 pages have been archived. However, Asayish, CTD, Zerevani, and the Office of General Prosecutor have shared the evidences to MoI in order to commence the project.
- On August 7, 2022, OCIA updated UNITAD through an email about the progress of the digitization/archiving project at MoI, CIGE was concluded in Dec 10, 2021, in which 9801 files from 73912 pages have been archived with the cooperation of UNITAD'S office in Duhok. As for the Office of the Rescued Abducted Yazidis the project was concluded on April 3, 2022, in which 3543 files from 5393 pages have been archived. From Zerevani 384 MB (124 photos) and 28,3 GB (105 video) have been archived. In his reply, Mr. Gerald Casey, mentioned some issues pertinent to the delay of the commencement of Asayish and CT archives. The first relates to the evidence within these collections themselves. Whereas the project team had access to the original documents when working with CIGE and Yezidi Rescue Office, the Asayish and Zerevani have provided copy of the documents/data in a digital format without following the guidance and processes provided to the beneficiaries by the MoI a year ago. The second issue relates to the status of the project at UNITAD. As you are aware, the European Union had initially agreed to fund the project for a period of two years from April 2020 to 31 March 2022, UNITAD secured a second tranche of funding from the EU to ensure continuity of the project for an extra eighteen months. Unfortunately, due to the on-going crisis ISIL in Europe, there has been an unexpected and significant delay in the signature of the new contract and the receipt of funding.
- UNITAD's chief of staff, Gerald Casey, reached out to OCIA requesting help with identifying two focal points from Zerevani and CT to assist UNITAD for the digitization/archiving project, OCIA contacted Zerevani accordingly. A List of names submitted to MoI accordingly.

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- On 2 September, 2022, the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, Mr. Christian Ritscher, interviewed by IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. The SA highlighted 20 important files the investigative has been working on so far-which are the following files:
  1. Crimes committed against the Yazidi community in Sinjar beginning in August 2014
  2. The mass killing of unarmed cadets of the Tikrit Air Academy in June 2014
  3. Crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh in and around the Badush prison near Mosul in June 2014
  4. Crimes related to the facilitation of ISIL financing; known as Al- Rawi network.
  5. Evidence investigation
  6. Challenges facing UNITAD
  7. Mass graves investigation strategy
  8. The File of crimes committed against the Yazidis
  9. The file of Yazidi women survivors of ISIL crimes
  10. The crime of mass killings that ISIL committed against Tikrit Air Academy personnel
  11. The file of the international crimes
  12. The team's work in Iraq
  13. The role of the Iraqi government in assisting the investigative team
  14. UNITAD support for the Iraqi judiciary
  15. Partnership and daily cooperation between UNITAD and Iraqi authorities
  16. Supporting the efforts of the Iraqi authorities specialized in investigations
  17. The perpetrators of crimes against Iraqis
  18. The asylum applications of the women fleeing from Iraq to foreign countries
  19. The arrest of Taha al-J
  20. Iraq reconstruction operation
- On 15 September 2022, the United Nations Security Council unanimously renewed UNITAD's mandate through resolution (2651) upon the request of the Iraqi Government.
- On September 20, 2022, UNITAD sent an official letter addressed to Honorable Judge Abduljabar, to nominate 5 judges to participate in a capacity building training program designed for Iraqi judges, including in the Kurdistan Region, at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy in Germany. The training was scheduled to commence on November 21-25, 2022 for five days.
- On 28 September, 2022, based on UNITAD's request addressed to KR Judicial Council to nominate 5 judges in the KR to participate in a 'Capacity Building Training Program in Nuremberg Academy in Germany. In this respect, a list of the nominated judges (names, positions and contact details) forwarded from the judicial council to participate in the training program, including the following:
  1. Judge Samih Othman Younis, Member of the Regional Appeal court
  2. Judge Khidir Hassan Mohammed, Member of the KR Appeal court
  3. Judge Younis Othman Mohammed, Judge of the Erbil Court of Investigation
  4. Judge Jabar Radha Ahmed, Judge of the Sulaymaniyah Court of Investigation
  5. Judge Nigar Ahmed Mohammed, Member of Erbil Court of Appeal
- On September 26, 2022, UNITAD forwarded two letters to Honorable Judge Abduljabar and Honorable Judge Kawa Fathi, requesting to identify 10-15 judges and prosecutors from the KRI to participate in a workshop on capacity building on Developing International Criminal Cases for the Prosecution of ISIL Suspects. This was aimed to be held in Erbil and be conducted in two parts; in October and November 2022.
- On October 6, 2022, Mr. Christian Ritscher, (the special advisor and head of UNITAD) delivered a speech at the Annual Conference of the Regional Plan for Human Rights. In his speech the special advisor praised the extensive and collective work of stakeholders including

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UNAMI's Human Rights Office. Mr. Christian Ritscher also Thanked Iraqi authorities and Kurdistan Regional Government for their continued support and facilitation of UNITAD's work, stressing that guarantees of fair trials and due processes in human rights are very significant to UNITAD's efforts in promoting accountability.

- On 10 October, 2022, the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, Mr. Christian Ritscher, was interviewed by Rudaw Media Network. The SA highlighted a wide range of investigations and engagements undertaking both in Iraq and in KR, including evidence possession, mass graves exhumation, and crimes committed against the Yazidis, and the crime of mass killings that ISIL committed against Tikrit Air Academy personnel.
- On August 22, 2022, at the request of UNITAD, OCIA arranged a meeting between UNITAD and Deputy Head of Asayish-Duhok. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the facilitation of access for the witnesses from Ninawa to Duhok.
- On September 2, 2022, KRG representative received a team from UNITAD headed by Mr. Anees Ahmed, Chief of Office of Evidence Management. The following topics were discussed and underlined: case building to prepare evidences to prosecute ISIL terrorists, training program designed for Iraqi including KR judges at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy in Germany. However, they stated that according to UNITAD's mandate providing assistance to the Federal Government and the KRG is to use the collected evidences for a national prosecution.
- On September 4, 2022, the Ninth Steering committee meeting took place at the Office of the Coordinator for international Advocacy (OCIA). In the meeting, UNITAD highlighted that the new EU contract has been signed and that UNITAD can resume its full-scale operations with KRI beneficiaries and confirmed that phase 1 of the project is closed, and there are sufficient funds to start an ambitious new phase with KRI. The ambition is to not only focus on archiving and digitizing evidence records, but to meet the investigative team's common goals for accountability by providing justice for the victims. Furthermore, the investigative team stated that their experts will be deployed to MoI to assess the Zerevani and Asayish digital records. The members of the Steering Committee were composed of the followings:
  1. Dr. Dindar Zebari, KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy
  2. Kak Hogir from Ministry of Interior (MOI)
  3. Ms. Caroline Buisman, Senior Legal Officer, Head of FIU1 (UNITAD)
  4. El Hadji Babacar Ndiaye, Chief ISMS, OEM, (UNITAD)
- On September 14, 2022, a meeting was held between Honourable Judge Kawa Fathi, the Head of Public Prosecutor's Office and UNITAD's digitization team headed by Mr. El Hadji Babacar Ndiaye. In the meeting, Mr. Ndiaye, introduced the digitization project and enlightened their objective of the project, and its impact on the evidences that are considered to be held in their public prosecutor's office and the other courts in KRI. Furthermore, both parties agreed on Public Prosecutor's Office to identify relevant records and focal points to work with UNITAD, and the investigative team to organize a site visit to assess storage requirements in order to begin the project.
- On 23 October, 2022, the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) organized a workshop at Dedeman Hotel, Erbil. Wherein, 11 judges and public prosecutors from Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok, and Garman participated in the workshop. The exclusive focus of the workshop was on Case Building and Capacity Development Initiative for the Prosecution of Da'esh Suspects for KR judges and public prosecutors. Dr. Dindar Zebari, the KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy delivered a keynote speech at the workshop in the presence of Judge Abduljabar Aziz Hassan the President of the KR Judicial Council, Judge Suham Abdulqadir Nabi the Deputy Chief of Public Prosecution, and Mr. Christian Ritscher, the Special Advisor and head of UNITAD. Throughout

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his speech, the KRG Coordinator stressed the significance of KRG's engagement with the Investigative Team and the efforts to establish a specialized court in the KR to prosecute ISIL suspects who are detained in the Kurdistan Region.

- On the sideline of the workshop, a meeting was held between the four parties where the importance of the Investigative team's extensive efforts to establish a tribunal in the KR to prosecute ISIL suspects and to bring justice to all the victims in Iraq and in KR stressed by Dr. Zebari and Judge Abduljabbar. Mr. Christian Ritscher reaffirmed UNITAD's readiness to assist the KRG in prosecuting ISIL suspects and supported the workshop for building cases and enhancing the capacity of KR judges and prosecutors.