

**KRG welcomes the thirteenth report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

26/8/2021

On August 25, 2021, the UN Security Council released the Thirteenth Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which focused on the ongoing threats of the ISIL terrorist organization and the role of the United Nations in assisting the member states to counter the threats.

The UN Security Council, in Resolution No 2253 (2015) recognized the menace of Daesh as an international threat and called for multilateral cooperation to repel it. The thirteenth Secretary-General's report also came out in light of the decision, noting the increase of ISIL activities, in a way that it is gaining ground in Africa.

The Kurdistan Region was one of the main targets of ISIL when it first emerged, but after more than 1,800 martyrs and more than 10,000 wounded, and after nearly 4 years of Peshmerga forces' resistance with the aerial and consultive support of the allied forces, the imminent reckoning of ISIL to expand ceased.

However, terrorism has not yet been eradicated and continues to pose a threat to national and international security. According to the Secretary-General's report, ISIL has a large financial network in Iraq, and the network is still active and its sources have not dried up.

In the first five months of this year alone, Daesh carried out about 160 attacks in the disputed areas, varying from suicide bombings, fake checkpoints, direct engagements and several other activities.

Yazidis and other components are the victims of ISIL's vicious terror. Unfortunately, after more than five years of defeating ISIL, it has not been possible to lay the feasible security and infrastructure ground for the IDPs to return to their homeland.

The KRG, despite the financial crisis and the threat of Daesh, has opened the door to hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs, creating a safe environment for them to live, prosper, and enroll their children in schools. Currently, there are about a million refugees and IDPs in the Kurdistan Region who live and work freely.

The regional government welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and emphasizes that ISIL is still a threat to international security and stability. At the same time, it calls on the international community to intensify its efforts to compensate the victims and to cooperate in facilitating the trials of ISIL under the light of international crimes in coordination with the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed Against Da'sh (UNITAD).