

September 20, 2021

KRG Representative for Coordination with UNITAD: KRG Welcomes the Renewal of UNITAD's Mandate

On September 17, 2021, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously renewed the Mandate of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh (UNITAD), upon the request of the Government of Iraq.

In this respect, Dr. Dindar Zebari, KRG Coordinator for International Advocacy - who is also KRG's representative for coordination with UNITAD - stated that "the Kurdistan Regional Government welcomes the unanimous vote of the UNSC to renew UNITAD'S mandate and it continues to reiterate its unwavering commitment to bring justice to ISIL victims."

"As the Investigative Team is nearing towards concluding the third year of its investigation in ISIL crimes in Iraq, the KRG calls upon all involved parties to speed up the process of establishing Criminal Courts for ISIL Crimes to hold its members accountable for committing the core crimes under international law; namely crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, drawing on the evidence gathered and analyzed by the UN Investigative Team", Zebari added.

Parallel to the commitments tabled by UNSC Resolution No. 2379 (2017) – by which UNITAD was established and mandated – and in adherence to its constitutional rights, KRG embarked on a collaborative mechanism with the Investigative Team to ensure the underpinning of robust information-sharing process, rendering productive capacity-building projects for judicial and law-enforcement agencies, and, eventually, delivering fair prosecutions under the auspices of national courts.

KRG Coordinator and representative to coordinate with UNITAD further remarked that "the genocide that affected Sinjar district and its surroundings represents one of the most heinous crimes against humanity in modern history, and was part of a large-scale attack launched by ISIL terrorists against the people of Kurdistan. What happened in Sinjar is a catastrophe that shook the depths of our conscience and expressed the criminalized approach of this organization and its brutal ideology. Efforts must be intensified at home and abroad in order to define it within the sphere of core crimes under international law."

In his final remarks, Zebari stated that "Kurdistan Region had more than 1,810 martyrs and over 10,824 wounded troops from Peshmerga forces in the war with ISIL. On the occasion of the renewal of UNITAD's mandate, KRG continues to reiterate its unwavering commitment to bring justice to ISIL victims through its support to the Investigative Team's activities to collect evidence in relation to crimes perpetrated by the terrorist organization in question. On October 28, 2020, the High Committee to Recognize ISIL Atrocities as International Crimes was formed to accelerate the process of gathering evidence and holding the trials".

