



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

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**United Kingdom
Foreign & Commonwealth
Office**



**Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The Fight Against Impunity

BRINGING DA'ESH TO JUSTICE

Ministerial Side Event

**Monday, 19 September, 2016
1.15PM - 2.30PM, Conference Room 5, United Nations, New York**

The international community has united to defeat Da'esh. This is working. Da'esh is failing. It is losing territory in Iraq, Syria and Libya and thousands of people have been freed from its oppression. But Da'esh and its followers continue to act with impunity as they attempt to stoke divisions and hatred by threatening innocent civilians not just in Iraq and Syria but across the world.

Through Security Council resolution 2249, the international community agreed that those who committed, or were otherwise responsible for, terrorist acts or human rights abuses must be held accountable. Efforts are already underway from Iraq, to Libya, to Europe, and more widely to achieve this.

We believe the international community must come together to strengthen these efforts, complementing its campaign to defeat Da'esh with an equally united, global campaign to bring them to justice.

This event is an opportunity for States, the United Nations, and civil society to demonstrate their commitment to ensuring Da'esh and its followers are held to account for their crimes worldwide, by discussing steps towards criminal accountability for Da'esh's actions, delivering justice for the victims, and joining in a campaign to achieve this. We believe such a campaign should be led by the United Nations, and have three complementary goals:

- supporting national and international efforts to ensure Da'esh and its followers are brought to justice;
- empowering survivors of Da'esh crimes and;
- ensuring that where Da'esh tries to stoke division and hatred, our pursuit of justice unites our communities – local, national and international.

Da'esh and its followers have attacked civilians on every continent. The majority of its victims have been Muslims. One of its most egregious crimes was the attack in August 2014 on the town of Sinjar in northern Iraq home to Yazidis, a religious minority group. This was part of a larger offensive by Da'esh starting in June 2014, during which they sought to destroy communities across the Nineveh plains, including Yazidis, Christians, Shabaks, Shias, Turkmen and Sunnis. Da'esh killed as many as 5,000 Yazidi men and captured up to 7,000 Yazidi women and children. Approximately 3,200 Yazidi women and children are still held captive in sexual slavery, the majority now in Syria. Member States must not let impunity for such horror continue and send a unified message to Da'esh that there are costs to committing atrocities.

Program

Opening Speeches:

- **H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium
- **Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP**, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom
- **Dr. Ibrahim Al-Eshaqer Al-Jafari**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

Speeches from Panellists:

- **Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Ms. Nadia Murad Basee Taha**, Da'esh Survivor, Human Rights Activist and UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking
- **Ms. Amal Clooney**, Legal Representative for Nadia Murad Basee Taha

Statements from the floor (3 minute limit) moderated by **Dr. Simon Adams**, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Concluding remarks from **Mr. Adama Dieng**, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Interpretation will be provided for Arabic for this event.

Media

Member states will be encouraged to utilize social media during the event and journalists will be invited cover the event.