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Press Release

High-Level International Conference on Al-Hol focuses on urgent needs and calls for enhanced efforts to address dire situation in Al-Hol, Surrounding Camps and Places of Detention

New York, 26 September 2025 - The Government of the Republic of Iraq, with technical support from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), is organizing the *High-Level International Conference on the Repatriation of Persons from Al-Hol, Surrounding Camps and Places of Detention* on 26 September 2025 at the UN Headquarters.

The High-Level International Conference will be opened by the President of the Republic of Iraq, H.E. Mr. Abdul Latif Rashid. United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Mr. Guy Ryder, and United Nations Acting Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Alexandre Zouev, will join the President at the Opening Session. Following the opening, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other senior officials, including from the United Nations, will deliver statements on the issue.

Thousands of individuals with perceived or actual ties to Da'esh, including suspected foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and accompanying family members, have been detained in camps and other facilities in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic. As of July 2025, more than 30,000 individuals, including third-country nationals from over 62 countries, remain stranded in these camps. The population of these camps is predominantly women and children, with an estimated 60% under the age of 18, out of which 68% are under 12 years and 8% under five years of age.

The transition in the Syrian Arab Republic provides a unique window of opportunity to make a concerted effort to repatriate individuals from these facilities to areas of return. Iraq has taken a leading role in the repatriation of its nationals, with more than 17,100 individuals repatriated to date, and is continuing its effort to repatriate all of its citizens by the end of 2025.

Beside the High-Level Sessions, the Conference will also focus on four thematic topics pertaining to the issue and will close with a Chair's Summary delivered by H.E. Mr. Fouad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

Detailed information is available on the official webpage of the Conference: bit.ly/PRR-Sept2025