



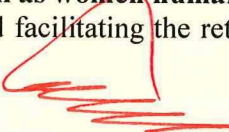
**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ  
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO  
CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

This Joint Communiqué is issued pursuant to the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to Iraq (Baghdad and Erbil) from 26 to 28 April 2015, on invitation of the Government of Iraq. The mission was conducted in the framework of Security Council resolution 2106, to address the critical issue of conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq.

During the visit the Special Representative met with the Prime Minister of Iraq and other senior officials in Baghdad, including the Minister for Human Rights, the State Minister for Women's Affairs, Members of Parliament, Council of Representatives Committees and Human Rights Commissioners as well as civil society representatives. In Kurdistan region, the Special Representative met with the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, Representatives of the Kurdistan High Council of Women Affairs, civil society representatives and survivors of sexual violence particularly amongst the Yezidi component. The Special Representative also met with traditional and religious leaders of the Yezidi, Turkmen Shia and Christian components.

Critical issues were discussed related to the protection of women and girls, as well as men and boys, from sexual violence and the provision of care and services for survivors. The Government is committed to address these concerns as an aspect of implementation of the National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325, and its commitments under the Declaration of Commitment to Prevent Sexual Violence in Conflict endorsed by Iraq in September 2013 on the side-lines of the Heads of State meeting in the United Nations General Assembly. The Government and the United Nations agree to cooperate in a number of priority areas, *inter alia*:

- 1) **Supporting legislative and policy reform** to strengthen protection from and service response for sexual violence crimes and to facilitate documentation, return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees into communities;
- 2) **Ensuring accountability** for sexual violence through strengthening the capacity of national and regional authorities, including the Kurdistan Genocide Committee to document, investigate and prosecute such crimes, according to applicable national laws;
- 3) Ensuring the **provision of services, livelihood support, and reparations** for survivors and children born of rape;
- 4) Engaging **tribal and religious leaders, civil society as well as women human rights defenders** in the prevention of sexual violence crimes and facilitating the return and reintegration of survivors;

  
I. J.

ZAR



- 5) Ensuring that considerations related to sexual violence are adequately reflected in the work of the **Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Commission**, including enhancing the role of women in counter-terrorism efforts; and
- 6) **Raising awareness and deepening knowledge** related to conflict-related sexual violence, including through engagement with media and public awareness campaigns.

The Iraqi authorities agree to **designate high-level focal points** at the level of the Federal Government in Baghdad and regional Kurdistan authority to cooperate with the Office of the Special Representative and the United Nations system in the development and implementation of an action plan to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence including the priorities as noted above. The focal points will convene all relevant national authorities, including security institutions, justice authorities, social services, health authorities, and any other relevant institutions.

The Office of the Special Representative commits to support the national authorities and United Nations country presence in Iraq, including through deployment of the United Nations Team of Experts on Rule of Law / Sexual Violence in Conflict established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1888, as well as engagement of the inter-agency network UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as appropriate.

The United Nations and Government of Iraq call on international donors to support the implementation of any action plan developed on the basis of this Joint Communique.

Zainab Hawa Bangura  
Under-Secretary-General,  
Special-Representative of the Secretary-General  
on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Eshaiker Al-Jaffari  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Iraq

09/23/2016

23 September 2016