

Forum: Human Rights Commission

Issue: Question of The Human Rights of People in Areas Controlled by DAESH

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Introduction

Daesh is a brutal Salafi jihadist extremist militant group and self-proclaimed Islamic state, which is led by and mainly composed of Sunni Arabs from Iraq and Syria.¹ In the Middle East, the organization is best known as Daesh, but in the other parts of the world it is mainly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or the Islamic State (IS). The leader of the organization is the caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Daesh claims that its goal is to create a “Caliphate” in Syria and Iraq, based on a fundamentalist interpretation of the religion. A German journalist Jurgen Todenhöfer spent ten days embedded with Daesh in Mosul. The view that he kept hearing was that Daesh wants to “conquer the world” and all who do not believe in the group’s interpretation of the Koran will be killed. Todenhöfer was struck by the Daesh fighters’ belief that “all religions who agree with democracy have to die”.²

Daesh is not a “normal” religious organization. In reality, the leaders of the group are systematically bleeding the territories and exploiting them. The main purpose of the propaganda about the “Caliphate” is to attract fighters and rally them to their cause.³ Daesh targets especially weak minds - as in young people or people in bad life situations - to be part of the organization.

People living in the areas controlled by daesh has daily a lack of human rights. Firstly, Daesh compels people in the areas that it controls to live according to its interpretation of sharia law, because that is how caliphates operate.⁴ Therefore women are discouraged to leave home unless necessary and they must be accompanied. Amputations are the punishment for stealing. There have been many reports of the group’s use of death threats, torture and mutilation to

¹<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/war-with-isis-islamic-militants-have-army-of-200000-claims-kurdish-leader-9863418.html>

²<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/inside-isis-the-first-western-journalist-ever-given-access-to-the-islamic-state-has-just-returned-9938438.html>

³<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/north-africa-and-middle-east/what-is-france-doing-to-combat/article/what-is-france-doing-to-combat>

⁴<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/06/13/isis-beheadings-and-the-success-of-horrifying-violence/>

compel conversion to Islam, and of clerics being killed for refusal to pledge allegiance to the so-called "Islamic State".⁵

Over 60 countries are directly or indirectly waging war against Daesh. For instance, Amnesty International has reported ethnic cleansing by the group on a "historic scale". The group has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, the European Union and member states, the United States, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria and many other governments.¹

Daesh poses a large threat to the civilian populations through its numerous human rights violations against the inhabitants of the territories occupied by the terrorist organization and in particular the numerous minorities that have always lived in the region.⁶ Due to this, for instance, the United Nations has held Daesh responsible for numerous human right abuses and war crimes.

In March 2015, the UN reported the horrifying ways that Daesh treats even its most vulnerable captives: crucifying children, burying children alive, hand-picking mentally challenged children to serve as suicide bombers and kill even more innocent people. The UN brings almost every week new examples of how far the evil of these groups reaches.⁷

Definition of key terms

Caliph = A political and religious leader who is a successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. His power and authority is absolute. Caliph is the leader of the entire Muslim community.

Caliphate = An islamic state. Caliphate is led by a caliph.

Daesh = A militant group, furthermore, a terrorist organization. Also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or the Islamic State (IS).

Human rights = The Oxford Dictionaries defines the term *human right* to be "a right which is believed to belong to every person". They are moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law.

Salafi jihadism = A transnational religious-political ideology based on a belief in violent jihadism and the Salafi movement of returning to (what adherents believe is) "true" Sunni Islam.⁸

⁵https://web.archive.org/web/20150204115327/http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/HRC_CRP_ISIS_14Nov2014.pdf

⁶ <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/north-africa-and-middle-east/what-is-france-doing-to-c>

⁷ <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/03/238065.htm>

⁸ https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR600/RR637/RAND_RR637.pdf

Sunni arabs = The Oxford Dictionaries defines the term Sunni Arab as “A Muslim who adheres to the Sunni branch of Islam.”⁹

Terrorist organization = An organization, that uses the unofficial or unauthorized violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.

Background

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.¹⁰ One of the biggest reasons to this was the consequences of the world war II. The UDHR is generally viewed as the preeminent statement of international rights and has been identified as being a culmination of centuries of thinking along both secular and religious lines.¹¹ The UDHR urges member nations to promote a number of human, civil, economic and social rights, asserting these rights as part of the “foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”.¹²

Human rights abuses are commonly understood as breaking inalienable fundamental rights “to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being”, and which are “inherent in all human beings” regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. Human rights are applicable everywhere and at every time in the sense of being universal, and they are egalitarian in the sense of being the same for everyone. They should not be taken away except as a result of due process based on specific circumstances; for example, human rights may include freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution.¹³

The state of human rights in territories controlled by Daesh has been criticised by many political, religious and other organisations and individuals. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has stated that Daesh “seeks to subjugate civilians under its control and dominate every aspect of their lives through terror, indoctrination, and the provision of services to those who obey”.¹⁴

Since 2014 Daesh has also destroyed a massive amount of cultural heritage in the areas of Iraq, Syria and Libya. The destruction targets various places of worship under Daesh control

⁹ <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/Sunni>

¹⁰ <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?docid=3ae6b3712c>

¹¹ Ball, Olivia; Gready, Paul (2006). *The no-nonsense guide to human rights. New Internationalist (Oxford)*

¹² <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/#atop>

¹³ <http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/pages/whatarehumanrights.aspx>

¹⁴ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/HRC_CRP_ISIS_14Nov2014.pdf

and ancient historical artifacts. The organization has plundered and destroyed at least 28 historical religious buildings in Iraq between the fall of Mosul in June 2014 and February 2015.¹⁵

Daesh is adept at social media, posting Internet videos of beheadings of soldiers, civilians, journalists and aid workers, and is known for its destruction of cultural heritage sites. Muslim leaders around the world have condemned Daesh's ideology and actions, arguing that the group has strayed from the path of true Islam and that its actions do not reflect the religion's true teachings or virtues. The group's adoption of the name "Islamic State" and idea of a caliphate have been widely criticised, with the United Nations, NATO, various governments, and mainstream Muslim groups rejecting both.¹⁶

Daesh isn't the first extremist group to channel the power of mass communication. But Daesh's ability to speak to and mobilize a global audience, through its use of graphic violence to shock some and attract others, has been unprecedented.

Relevant member states and NGO's

Middle east

Daesh uses many of Middle east countries' existing governorate boundaries in Iraq and Syria to subdivide its claimed territory; it calls these divisions wilayah or provinces. In June 2015, it had established official branches in Libya, Egypt (Sinai Peninsula), Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Algeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria and the North Caucasus. Outside Iraq and Syria, it controls territory in only Sinai, Afghanistan, and Libya. ISIL also has members in Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, but does not have official branches in those areas.¹⁷



Iraq

Human rights conditions in Iraq have crumbled as militias, government forces and "popular mobilization committees" intensified their fight against Daesh, along with air strikes from an international coalition. The fighting has displaced hundreds of thousands, leaving Iraq with more than 2 million internally displaced persons. Daesh has committed numerous atrocities, including suicide attacks in civilian areas, summary executions, sexual assault and forced marriage, and the killings of religious and ethnic minorities. Iraqi security forces, militias and popular mobilization committees continue to carry out attacks on civilians, including massacres,

¹⁵ http://mawtani.al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/iii/features/2015/02/13/feature-01

¹⁶ <http://www.voiceofthecoops.org/index.php/component/easytagcloud/137-module/ISIS>

¹⁷ http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/INTSUM_Summary_update.pdf

kidnapping and summary executions with impunity; and are responsible for arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and torture.¹⁸

United States of America

The United States of America has more soldiers in the war area in the Middle East than any other country in the world. 52 percent of the USA's population supports the military operation against Daesh in Syria and Iraq.

On the military side, the Pentagon has said that it may launch more air strikes and even direct ground attacks by special forces in Iraq and Syria. On the other hand, on the diplomatic side, the State Department said it expected Damascus's key ally Iran to be invited to a new round of talks in Vienna.

One way to destroy Daesh is to cut its access on guns and money. The United States can take steps to shut down the weapons supply routes that Daesh is relying on. This is the opposite of what Obama has outlined as a strategy in Syria and Iraq. The U.S. also needs to re-evaluate its broader arms policy.¹⁹

Russian Federation

Russia has a military presence in Syria, including a naval base in Lattakia, Kalin noted, going on to assert that the primary goal of the Russian-Iranian alliance was not so much the defeat of Daesh, "but to ensure a political outcome favorable to them."

According to the US official, more than 90 percent of Russian airstrikes inside Syria in 2015 have hit opposition forces and not Daesh or al-Qaeda-affiliated targets.²⁰

Amnesty International

Amnesty International has held Daesh responsible for the ethnic cleansing of ethnic and religious minority groups in northern Iraq on a "historic scale". In a special report released on 2 September 2014, it describes how Daesh has "systematically targeted non-Arab and non-Sunni Muslim communities, killing or abducting hundreds, possibly thousands, and"²¹

Human rights watch

In november 2014 released report by Human Rights Watch accuses Daesh militants in Libya's Derna of war Crimes and human rights abuses and of terrorizing residents. Human Rights Watch documented three apparent incidents in which captives were killed and at least ten public floggings by the Islamic Youth Shura Council, which joined ISIL in November. It also

¹⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/iraq>

¹⁹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

²⁰ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/americas/21518-us-more-than-90-percent-of-russian-strikes-not-hitting-daesh>

²¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29026491>

documented the beheading of three Derna residents and dozens of seemingly politically-motivated assassinations of judges, public officials, members of the security forces and others. The Director of HRW Middle East and North Africa, Sarah Leah Watson has said that commanders should understand that they may face domestic or international prosecution for the grave rights abuses their forces are committing.²²

Syria

Daesh is one of the main jihadist groups fighting against the government forces of Syria and Iraq. The president Bashar al-Assad has announced that Syria had no part in the creation of the militant group and holds the west responsible for the creation of Daesh.²³

All in all, the Syria's war is a big part of Daesh's actions. The conflict can be hard to understand, but here is a video briefly explaining the war and how it became so bad;

Youtube - "Syria's war: who is fighting and why";

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=324&v=NKb9GVU8bHE

France

France has taken two measures, in order to combat the problem of foreign fighters and their possible return to the country which could lead to violent actions. Firstly, in March 2014 the country adopted a plan to combat violent radicalization and terrorist networks. Secondly, in September and October 2014 France's national Assembly and the Senate adopted a bill relating to the fight against terrorism: measures relating to the official ban on leaving the country, the justification of terrorism, and the expansion of the definition of terrorism to include isolated terrorist acts.²⁴

Timeline

2004	
October	Joined al-Qaeda.
October 18	The UN designation Daesh as a terrorist organization (as al-Qaeda in Iraq)
2006	
October 13	Declaration of an Islamic state in Iraq.
2013	
April 8	Claim of territory in the Levant.
2014	
February 3	Separated from al-Qaeda.
May 30	

²² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/11/27/libya-extremists-terrorizing-derna-residents>

²³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24179084>

²⁴ <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/north-africa-and-middle-east/what-is-france-doing-to-combat-daesh/article/what-is-france-doing-to-combat>

June 29 The UN designation Daesh as a terrorist organization (as separation
 November 13 from al-Qaeda)
 Proclaimed itself to be a worldwide caliphate.
 Claim of territory in Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

2015

January 14 Claim of territory in Afghanistan, Pakistan and part of India.
 March 12 Claim of territory in Nigeria.
 June 23 Claim of territory in North Caucasus

UN resolutions

- Security Council - Resolution [S/RES/1621](#) (2014) - 17 June 2014
- Security Council - Resolution [S/RES/2170](#) (2014) - 15 August 2014
- Security Council - Resolution [S/RES/2199](#) (2015) - 12 February 2015
- The General Assembly - Resolution A/HRC/28/L.29 (2015) - 24 March 2015

Possible solutions



Here is what Daesh plans to do between now and 2019.²⁵

 ThirdPosition @Third_Position · Jun 16
 #ISIS Roadmap: The goal of a unified #Islamic #Caliphate. pic.twitter.com/21rEJM6xpV
 1 Reply Retweet Favorite

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/Grasswire/status/483608869676273665/photo/1>

The solution to destroying Daesh - and mitigating Iraq's problems in general - isn't military but political. Here are some key steps, according to analysts like Phyllis Bennis And advocates like Win Without War, to destroy Daesh.

Cut access to guns and money

It should be noted that Daesh has access to weapons because U.S. and Saudi weapons have been flooding the region for over a decade. In addition, part of Daesh's strength is due to its robust financial resources, a significant part of which relies on black market sales of oil now under ISIS control. All UN member states can take clear steps to block the processing and sale of this oil.²⁶

Fix Iraq's political rifts

While Daesh allegedly has 20,000 fighters, there are 25 million Sunnis across the Middle East, and as long as they remain disillusioned with Iraqi and Syrian political leaders, they're a potential recruiting ground for Daesh to expand. This political crisis needs a political solution.²⁷ Encouraging al-Maliki to step down and supporting a new, more inclusive Iraqi government is an important first step. The UN member states must help heal the sectarian rifts. That means serious engagement with Iran - a traditional enemy for many West countries which nonetheless shares ones goal in stabilizing Iraq and has far more diplomatic influence in the region than one do.²⁸

Provide humanitarian assistance

While airstrikes won't help the Syrian and Iraqi people, humanitarian assistance will. Millions have been displaced and have become refugees. The UN member states should spend money on food and water and shelter for those in desperate need. Maybe even found a new UN organization to this.²⁹

Lead a truly international response

The world doesn't need a coalition of the willing or a coalition of the killing. The world needs a coalition of nations that will help put Iraq on firm political and cultural footing and restart real negotiations in Syria involving all parties in the crisis there. All countries should work through the United Nations and seek diplomatic solutions through a broad coalition of nations.³⁰

²⁶ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

²⁷ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

²⁸ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

²⁹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

³⁰ <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/11/opinion/kohn-isis-obama/>

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