

**Twenty-second special session of the Human Rights Council (01-09-14)**  
**THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAQ IN LIGHT OF ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE**  
**SO-CALLED ISIL AND ASSOCIATED GROUPS**

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Convening of this special session on the human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed by the so-called ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and associated groups brings to the Council's attention an extremely volatile and dangerous human rights situation. We share the concern over the gravity of human rights violations and the appalling abuses and over the international humanitarian law violations which also have caused a catastrophic humanitarian crises and displacement of people. We urge all parties to preserve what it means to be human by complying with international humanitarian and human rights law.

Worried about the deteriorating security situation in Iraq, we strongly condemn the attacks perpetrated by the ISIL and other associated armed groups. We particularly condemn the abuses of human rights committed against targeted religious minorities and most vulnerable groups. Widespread or systematic attacks directed against civilian populations because of their ethnic background, religion or belief may constitute crimes against humanity and must be investigated swiftly; those responsible must be held to account.

We call on the Iraqi government to ensure that all perpetrators are brought to justice and that promotion and protection of human rights is guaranteed by involving all components of the Iraqi society.

We welcome the Report of the OHCHR and UNAMI on the Protection of Civilians in the Non International Armed Conflict in Iraq issued in July and support dispatching of an OHCHR mission to Iraq which should investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law.

The Czech Republic reiterates its support to the government of Iraq in its endeavors to meet all the challenges. We have provided humanitarian assistance aiming at improving the situation of individuals displaced by the conflict and we are ready to continue helping.

Thank you Mr. President.