



Resolution of the International Association of Genocide Scholars concerning crimes of ISIS

The International Association of Genocide Scholars, the world's largest organization of experts on genocide, call upon the United Nations and all its member states to declare that the crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) also known as *Da'esh*, constitute genocide in violation of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Genocide is the intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such. ISIS is committing genocide and crimes against humanity against groups that do not conform to ISIS's definition of 'true Islam' and its vision for the 'caliphate,' including Ezidis, Christians, Shia Muslims, Sunni Kurds and other minority groups.

ISIS's policy of mass rape is also genocidal. The gendered pattern of persecution pursued by ISIS against groups it considers to be infidels conforms to historical patterns of genocide, particularly the mass killing of men and teenage boys accompanied by the rape and enslavement of women and teenage girls and the kidnapping of children.

ISIS "government" in areas it has occupied includes beheadings of captives and people considered apostates, destruction of religious centers such as churches and monasteries, and pillage of ancient cultural sites that do not conform to the regime's religious orthodoxy—acts typical of genocidal regimes.

In addition to genocide we believe that ISIS has perpetrated crimes against humanity, including:

- murder;
- extermination;
- enslavement;
- deportation and forcible transfers of populations;
- imprisonment;
- torture;
- rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, and other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity;
- persecution against identifiable groups on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds;
- enforced disappearance of persons; and
- other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering or serious bodily or mental injury.

ISIS commits war crimes as part of a plan or policy on a large scale. These prohibited acts include:

- murder;
- mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
- taking of hostages;
- intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population;
- intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historical monuments or hospitals;
- pillaging;
- rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and other forms of sexual violence;
- conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

We call upon the United Nations Security Council to refer the ISIS situation to the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution.

Respectfully Yours,
The International Association of Genocide Scholars

Resolution passed on 18 March 2016