



Security Council

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Letter dated 13 December 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#), in which the Council requested me to establish an investigative team, headed by a special adviser, to support domestic efforts to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) accountable, by collecting, preserving and storing evidence in Iraq of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by the terrorist group ISIL (Da'esh) in Iraq; as well as to my letter dated 20 November 2017 addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/989](#)) and the letter dated 27 November 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to me in response ([S/2017/990](#)).

In its letter dated 27 November 2017, in response to my request for an additional period of time, namely, until 20 December 2017, for the submission of the terms of reference, the Security Council stated that it looked forward to receiving the submission of the terms of reference by 13 December 2017.

The Secretariat has been engaged in discussions with the Government of Iraq on the terms of reference with regard to the sharing of evidence by the investigative team in respect of any criminal proceedings in which capital punishment could be imposed or carried out. While the Secretariat has made proposals to the Government of Iraq to try to resolve the issue in a manner that is acceptable to both the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, the Government of Iraq advised, on 13 December 2017, that more time would be required in order to reach a final satisfactory outcome on the terms of reference.

I therefore wish to request an extension of the deadline for the submission of the terms of reference to the Security Council until 21 December 2017, in order to try to conclude the discussions with the Government of Iraq.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres

