



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 15 December 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**  
Chair

Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities

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# **Report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Dian Triansyah Djani (Indonesia) as Chair and representatives of the Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as Vice-Chairs.

## **II. Background**

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. The Council subsequently modified the regime by its resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) and imposed an arms embargo, a travel ban and an assets freeze on designated individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and the travel ban are available.
4. On 17 June 2011, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for the Taliban and another for Al-Qaida. By its resolution 2253 (2015), the Council expanded the listing criteria to include those associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or Da'esh), in addition to Al-Qaida.
5. By its resolution 2368 (2017), adopted on 20 July 2017, the Security Council extended the mandates of the Analytical Support and Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and of the Office of the Ombudsperson until 17 December 2021. On 21 December 2018, the President of the Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2018/21) concluding that, after having reviewed the implementation of the measures in accordance with paragraph 104 of resolution 2368 (2017), no further adjustments to the measures were necessary.
6. Both the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team initially consisted of 8 experts, and that number was increased to 10 experts in resolution 2253 (2015).
7. Further background information on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

### III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. The Committee met three times in informal consultations, on 14, 17 and 24 January, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

9. The Committee also met twice in joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#), on 14 and 24 January.

10. In the light of the challenges posed to the Committee's usual procedures by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the limitations on holding in-person meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold virtual meetings in the form of closed videoconferences, on 28 April, 15 July, 16 September, 27 October and 18 December. The Committee also met once with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, on 18 June.

11. The Committee held one joint briefing via videoconference with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) for all Member States on 14 September.

12. During the informal consultations held on 14 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Monitoring Team on its trip to Dakar to attend the fourth meeting of heads of intelligence and security services of West Africa, the Sahel and the Maghreb. Thereafter the Committee met in joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) to hear a presentation on the Monitoring Team's visit to Kyrgyzstan.

13. During the informal consultations on 17 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Monitoring Team on the Team's twenty-fifth report ([S/2020/53](#)), submitted in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

14. During the informal consultations held on 24 January, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on his findings regarding a delisting request. Thereafter the Committee met in joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) to hear a presentation on the Monitoring Team's visit to Afghanistan.

15. During the closed videoconference held on 28 April, the Committee received a quarterly briefing from the Monitoring Team in pursuance of paragraph 99 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

16. During the closed videoconference held with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), on 18 June, the Committees received a briefing from the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Monitoring Team on their joint report submitted pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) on actions taken by Member States to disrupt terrorist financing ([S/2020/493](#)). The joint special meeting pursuant to paragraph 36 of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) was postponed to 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Chairs accordingly informed the President of the Security Council in a joint letter ([S/2020/220](#)).

17. During the closed videoconference held on 15 July, the Committee heard a presentation by the Monitoring Team on the Team's twenty-sixth report ([S/2020/717](#)), submitted in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee also heard a

quarterly oral briefing by the Monitoring Team pursuant to paragraph 99 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

18. During the briefing to Member States held via closed videoconference on 14 September, pursuant to paragraph 46 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#) and paragraph 56 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#), the Chair, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee and of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#), provided a briefing for interested Member States with a view to raising awareness of the two sanctions regimes, enhancing transparency and improving the dialogue between the Committees and the broader United Nations membership. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team and the Ombudsperson also gave a briefing to Member States.

19. During the closed videoconference held on 16 September, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on his findings regarding a delisting request.

20. During the closed videoconference held on 27 October, the Committee received a quarterly briefing from the Monitoring Team in pursuance of paragraph 99 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

21. During the closed videoconference held on 18 December, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on his findings regarding two delisting requests.

22. On 23 November, the Chair gave a briefing to the Security Council on the mandate and general work of the Committee alongside the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) (see [S/PV.8364](#)).

23. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing three notes verbales, dated 21 February, 31 August and 3 September, on the twenty-fifth report of the Monitoring Team ([S/2020/53](#)), the holding of a joint briefing on 14 September and the twenty-sixth report of the Monitoring Team ([S/2020/717](#)), respectively.

24. The Committee sent 109 communications to 79 Member States and other stakeholders, 15 communications to the Office of the Ombudsperson and 1 communication to the focal point for delisting.

## IV. Exemptions

25. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution [1452 \(2002\)](#), as amended in resolution [1735 \(2006\)](#), paragraph 75 of resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#) and paragraph 81 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

26. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 2 (b) and 10 of resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#), paragraphs 1 (b) and 10 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#) and section 12 of the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

27. Pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 76 of resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#) and paragraphs 10 and 82 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), the focal point mechanism established in resolution [1730 \(2006\)](#) may also receive requests for exemption from the asset freeze and the travel ban, submitted by or on behalf of an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the sanctions list, or by the legal representative or estate of such an individual, group, undertaking or entity, for the Committee's consideration.

28. The Committee approved two requests for exemption from the asset freeze, determined to be necessary for basic expenses pursuant to paragraph 81 (a) of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). The Committee further approved one request for exemption from the asset freeze, determined to be necessary for extraordinary expenses pursuant to paragraph 81 (b) of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). The Committee received one request

for exemption from the asset freeze through the focal point mechanism pursuant to paragraphs 82 and 83 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

## V. Sanctions list

29. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

30. Both the Committee and the Ombudsperson can receive delisting requests. During the reporting period, four individuals and five entities were listed. Three individuals were delisted, all following a review by the Ombudsperson. The Committee approved amendments to the existing entries of 69 individuals and 17 entities on its sanctions list.

31. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 262 individuals and 89 entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

## VI. Monitoring Team

32. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad experience in international counter-terrorism issues.

33. On 17 January and 15 July, the Team presented, respectively, its twenty-fifth ([S/2020/53](#)) and twenty-sixth ([S/2020/717](#)) reports to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). On 18 June, the Team and the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate provided a briefing to the Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) on their joint report submitted pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) ([S/2020/493](#)).

34. In February and August, the Monitoring Team contributed to the reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 101 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#) ([S/2020/95](#) and [S/2020/774](#)).

35. During the closed videoconferences held on 28 April, 15 July and 27 October, the Monitoring Team gave a briefing to the Committee pursuant to paragraph 99 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), including on information gathered and analysis relevant to potential sanctions designations by Member States or Committee action that could be taken. The Team also informed the Committee about its trips to Member States on 14 and 24 January.

36. On 13 December 2019 and 11 June, in accordance with paragraph (e) of annex I to resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), the Monitoring Team submitted its combined biannual travel plans for the Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) for the periods from January to June and July to December 2020. Accordingly, the Monitoring Team conducted country visits to more than four Member States and participated in more than 12 regional and international conferences and other meetings. The Team also organized two regional forums for security and intelligence services, in Skopje and Stockholm. On 29 December, by resolution [2560 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council requested the Monitoring Team to study the basic and extraordinary exemptions procedures set out in paragraphs 81 (a) and (b) of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), and to provide recommendations, within 9 months of the adoption of the resolution, to the Committee.

37. In December, the Monitoring Team held virtual meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

38. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent over 110 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

## **VII. Ombudsperson**

39. The Office of the Ombudsperson submitted six comprehensive reports to the Committee and presented five reports to the Committee, one of which was presented only in writing, instead of an in-person presentation, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee took a decision in five cases, resulting in the delisting of three individuals and the retention of two individuals on the sanctions list. The Ombudsperson, in addition to holding meetings in New York, sent requests for information to 14 Member States and communicated via videoconference on two occasions with officials in their respective capitals, and once via teleconference, to gather information on specific cases.

40. The Ombudsperson submitted periodic reports to the Security Council on 7 February ([S/2020/106](#)) and 7 August ([S/2020/782](#)).

## **VIII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support**

41. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

42. The Division worked with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Information and Communication Technology of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to facilitate the conduct of virtual meetings held by the Committee, through a variety of platforms.

43. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 14 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 15 April, notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. The vacancy announcement on 15 April was also made available online at [careers.un.org](https://careers.un.org).

44. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting a virtual induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Team's biannual reports, submitted in June and December to the Committee. While the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions impeded the travel of Monitoring Team members for much of the year, the Secretariat facilitated the travel by Monitoring Team members to Member States, taking into account World Health Organization guidelines, national travel advisories and other pandemic-related requirements. The Secretariat also organized a remote workshop on investigative techniques, held from 14 to 16 December, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for experts. In addition, the Secretariat organized training sessions for experts on the use of

subscription-based analytical products and programmes, as well as databases and other research tools, to facilitate their monitoring and reporting work.

45. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, as well as further developing, in all official languages, the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Council in paragraph 54 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). Since November 2020, the notes verbales notifying Member States about listings on, delistings from and updates to the Consolidated Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists have also been made available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to English French and Spanish, in order to facilitate the timely implementation of changes to the relevant lists.

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