

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 17 December 2015 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 2015. 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) Gerard van Bohemen

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



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, or ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Jim McLay (New Zealand) as Chair from January to May and Gerard van Bohemen (New Zealand) as Chair for the remainder of the reporting period, and the representatives of Chile and the Russian Federation as Vice-Chairs throughout the reporting period.

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 Osama bin Laden. The regime was modified in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and the travel ban are available. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), which split the regime in two, establishing one committee for Al-Qaida and another for the Taliban. The sanctions measures against Al-Qaida and other individuals and groups associated therewith were imposed by resolution 1989 (2011), followed by resolutions 2083 (2012), 2161 (2014) and 2253 (2015).
4. By its resolution 2253 (2015), adopted on 17 December 2015, the Security Council expanded the listing criteria to include individuals and entities supporting ISIL (Da'esh) and directed the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to submit reports on the global threat posed by ISIL, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The Council also extended the mandates of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team until 17 December 2019.
5. Further background information on the Al-Qaida sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met 14 times in informal consultations, on 22 and 29 January, 18 March, 15 May, 15 and 19 June, 13, 16 and 27 July, 11 and 24 August, 12 October and 3 and 23 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

7. The Committee considered four written reports of the Monitoring Team during informal consultations: the report on foreign terrorist fighters prepared pursuant to paragraph 23 of resolution 2178 (2014) (on 15 May), the seventeenth report (on 15 June and 13 July), the impact assessment prepared pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 2199 (2015) (on 11 and 24 August) and the report pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 2214 (2015) on Libya (on 12 October). The Committee agreed on several actions based on the Monitoring Team's recommendations contained in those reports and published its position on the recommendations in position papers ([S/2015/859](#) and [S/2015/860](#)), which are available on the Committee's website.

8. During the Committee's informal consultations on 15 June, the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team gave three oral presentations: on the current threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates pursuant to paragraph (s) of annex I to resolution 2161 (2014); on the terrorism threat in Libya posed by ISIL, Ansar Al Charia Benghazi and Ansar Al Charia Derna (hereinafter referred to collectively as Ansar Al Charia) and associates pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 2214 (2015); and on Al-Qaida associates operating in Africa pursuant to paragraph 22 of resolution 2195 (2014).

9. The Committee discussed in informal consultations 13 comprehensive reports submitted by the Ombudsperson. Other matters considered during informal consultations included Monitoring Team reports on travel, correspondence alleging violations of sanctions measures, and reviews of the Al-Qaida sanctions list covering entries lacking sufficient identifying information to implement the measures, reportedly deceased individuals, reportedly defunct entities and names inscribed on the sanctions list that had not been reviewed in three or more years.

10. The Chair briefed the Security Council three times. On 29 May, he delivered a statement pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 2178 (2014), updating the Council on the current threat to international peace and security posed by foreign terrorist fighters. On 16 June, the Chair briefed the Council on the general work of the Committee (on the basis of the sixteenth report of the Monitoring Team) alongside the Chairs of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). On 27 October, he provided a further update on the work of the Committee, including the threat posed by Al-Qaida affiliates in Libya, pursuant to resolution 2214 (2015), and the impact of the measures imposed by resolution 2199 (2015).

11. On 24 April and 23 November, pursuant to paragraph 72 of resolution 2161 (2014), the Chair held open briefings, alongside the Monitoring Team, for interested Member States in order to improve understanding of the regime, enhance transparency and improve dialogue between the Committee and the broader United Nations membership. The Ombudsperson also briefed the membership on those dates.

12. The Committee sent 107 communications to 33 Member States. The Committee also sent 18 communications to the Ombudsperson and 3 communications to the focal point for delisting.

IV. Exemptions

13. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006).

14. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 2253 (2015).

15. Pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 37 of resolution 2083 (2012) and paragraph 75 of resolution 2253 (2015), the focal point mechanism established in resolution 1730 (2006) may also receive exemption requests submitted by, or on behalf of, a listed individual or entity for transmittal to the Committee.

16. The Committee received three notifications pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006) and reiterated in paragraph 75 (a) of resolution 2253 (2015), on which no negative decision was taken. The Committee also approved two requests for exemptions from the asset freeze for funds determined to be necessary for extraordinary expenses pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006). The Committee received two requests for exemption from the travel ban pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2161 (2014) through the focal point, to which it did not accede because the State of proposed destination did not agree.

V. Sanctions list

17. The listing criteria for the ISIL and Al-Qaida sanctions regime are set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 of resolution 2253 (2015) and pertain to association with ISIL or Al-Qaida. The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

18. During the reporting period, 36 individuals and four entities were listed. Twenty-four individuals were delisted, of whom seven were delisted following the submission of a petition through the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Committee also approved amendments to the list entries of 27 individuals and five entities. Both the Committee and the Ombudsperson can receive delisting requests.

19. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 243 individuals and 74 entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Ombudsperson

20. The mandate of the first Ombudsperson expired on 13 July, and the Secretary-General appointed the new Ombudsperson on the same date. The latter was formally introduced to the Committee on 16 July and took up her functions on 27 July. The Office of the Ombudsperson presented nine comprehensive reports to the Committee during the reporting period (two of the reports on which the Committee decided during the reporting period had been presented in December 2014). Four of those reports having been submitted to the Committee by the former Ombudsperson on 27 July and 24 August 2015, the new Ombudsperson formally introduced the cases in question, while the former Ombudsperson orally presented her reports and

answered questions from Committee members. Thus, no delay in the presentation of the cases resulted from the transition between the former and the new Ombudsperson.

21. In comprehensive reports to the Committee, the Ombudsperson recommended delisting in seven cases and retention of the listing in four cases. In all of those cases, the Committee decided to follow the Ombudsperson's recommendation. The Ombudsperson submitted periodic reports to the Security Council on 2 February (S/2015/80) and 14 July (S/2015/533).

VII. Monitoring Team

22. The Monitoring Team comprises eight experts with expertise in counter-terrorism/threat assessment, transport/customs, regional issues/Afghanistan and finance.

23. In accordance with paragraph (f) of annex I to resolution 2083 (2012), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its information, two biannual programmes of work, on 13 January and 14 July.

24. On 24 March, in accordance with paragraph 23 of resolution 2178 (2014), the Monitoring Team provided its report to the Committee on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. The report was transmitted to the Security Council on 19 May and issued as a document of the Council (S/2015/358).

25. On 31 March, in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution 2161 (2014), the Monitoring Team provided its seventeenth report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 16 June and issued as a document of the Council (S/2015/441).

26. On 10 July, in accordance with paragraph 30 of resolution 2199 (2015), the Monitoring Team provided an assessment of the impact of the measures imposed in that resolution to the Committee. On 25 September, the Chair transmitted a summary of the Monitoring Team's assessment to the Security Council (S/2015/739).

27. On 22 September, in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 2214 (2015), the Monitoring Team provided its report on the terrorism threat in Libya posed by ISIL, Ansar Al Charia and other Al-Qaida associates (S/2015/891).

28. In accordance with paragraph (cc) of annex I to resolution 2161 (2014), during the month of December the Monitoring Team assisted the Secretariat in completing the review of the Committee's sanctions list in the six official languages of the United Nations.

29. The Monitoring Team discussed the threat posed by Al-Qaida affiliates with government officials, national experts and representatives of several international organizations. It also discussed measures taken by countries to implement resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014).

30. The Monitoring Team travelled to Afghanistan, Bahrain, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan and within the United States of America. It also attended conferences and workshops in Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands,

Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Monitoring Team also attended one regional meeting, in Austria.

31. In pursuance of its mandate under resolution 2161 (2014), the Monitoring Team sent, through the Secretariat, 865 letters to Member States, the Committee and international and national entities.

VIII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

32. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate implementation of the sanctions measures. On 1 December, a sanctions workshop was organized for incoming members of the Security Council to familiarize them with the substantive and procedural aspects of chairing a sanctions committee, including interaction with the United Nations system, sanctions experts and other relevant actors.

33. On 14 October, the Division launched a redesigned website for the subsidiary organs of the Security Council. The new website, which is available in the six official languages and accessible to the visually impaired, features an improved and user-friendly layout. It offers swift and easy access to the current sanctions measures and applicable exemptions, the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and individual committee sanctions lists. Narrative summaries of the reasons for listing are displayed in an easy-to-navigate and searchable format. The website also provides clear and practical explanations of the procedures for listing, delisting and exemptions.¹

34. On 28 December, the Division made available all the Security Council sanctions lists in the six official languages. This builds upon last year's standardization of the format of all Council sanctions lists and the establishment of the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, in response to resolutions 2083 (2012), 2161 (2014) and 2253 (2015). In addition, the Division created and maintained the relevant INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices to promote the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

35. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the Division's roster of experts. Upon the receipt of nominations, the Division will assess the suitability of nominated candidates for its roster for future consideration for the relevant expert panels. In addition, the Division sent notes verbales to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies on specific sanctions panels and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

¹ The website is accessible at www.un.org/sc/suborg/ or from the Security Council's website at www.un.org/en/sc/.

36. The Division continued to provide substantive advice and support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of the Team's four reports.

37. From 8 to 11 September, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a pilot training workshop on investigative techniques for 12 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. The objective of the training was to equip the participants with an understanding of basic investigative techniques, processes and tools and to strengthen their understanding of the approach to investigations within the framework of the Security Council sanctions regimes.

38. Moreover, to promote greater cooperation among the different expert panels, the Division organized a third annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December 2015. The event was attended by members of all 12 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The workshop afforded sanctions experts the opportunity to discuss strategic and technical issues relating to Security Council sanctions with representatives of the sanctions committees, as well as United Nations system, other international, private sector and non-governmental partners.

39. During the reporting period, the Secretariat established the Inter-Agency Working Group on United Nations Sanctions under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs. The Working Group brings together 25 United Nations entities to support Security Council sanctions regimes and integrate United Nations sanctions with other peace and security efforts of the United Nations system, as appropriate.
