



*For immediate release*

**UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide welcomes genocide verdict by German court against ISIS member for the enslavement and abuse of Yazidi woman in Syria and Iraq**

**(New York, 22 June 2023)** The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, welcomed the verdict delivered on 21 June by the Higher Regional Court of Koblenz against German national ‘Nadine K.’, a former ISIS member who joined the group in late 2014 after the terrorist group had invaded the Sinjar region of Iraq and carried out mass executions of Yazidi men and elderly women and subjected younger women and children to abduction and sexual slavery.

Nadine K. has been found guilty of aiding and abetting genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes for the enslavement and abuse of a young Yazidi woman in support of ISIS’ brutal campaign to eradicate the Yazidi religious minority. The 37-year-old former ISIS member has been handed a sentence of 9 years and 3 months in prison. This marks the third conviction of an ISIS member for genocide perpetrated against the Yazidi community in Iraq and Syria since August 2014.

“This verdict by the Higher Regional Court of Koblenz constitutes a warning to all those who commit atrocity crimes, meaning genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as their incitement, or glorify the perpetrators thereof, that there is no space for impunity and that justice will prevail”, Special Adviser Nderitu said. She added that criminal accountability “is not only about the past but is also about the future. As a deterrent of future crimes, it constitutes a critical component of prevention. It is also an important step towards healing the trauma of atrocity crimes, and ensuring respect for the dignity of the victims and their families”.

The Special Adviser further underlined that once again, the sentence by a German court of a member of ISIL for the crime of genocide provides legal recognition to allegations of this crime against the Yazidi population.

“In this context, it remains urgent that the Iraqi Government allows for all legal means to be in place to prevent atrocity crimes, including domesticating the Genocide Convention and developing national capacities for prosecution of atrocity crimes”, Special Adviser Nderitu noted.

The UN Special Adviser encouraged Iraqi Authorities to reinforce their efforts aimed at strengthening accountability for atrocity crimes committed in Iraq. “A peaceful Iraq is only possible if justice is ensured, victims’ dignity is honoured, and minorities are protected and feel they are an integral part of the society.”

She reminded the Iraqi Government of its obligation to respect and implement international humanitarian and human rights law and of its duty to investigate and, when sufficient evidence is found, to prosecute alleged perpetrators of atrocity crimes. She called for reparation for victims, including rehabilitation when needed, with the best interest of the victims.

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