

## **An Appeal to the United States Congress from Genocide Scholars**

We, the undersigned members of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, representing the world's largest organization of experts on genocide, call upon the United States Congress to declare that the crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) also known as Daesh, 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 against religious groups that do not conform to ISIS's totalitarian definition of 'true Islam.' ISIS's mass murders of Chaldean, Assyrian, Melkite Greek, and Coptic Christians, Yazidis, Shia Muslims, Sunni Kurds and other religious groups meet even the strictest definition of genocide.

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.

Genocide is a crime against humanity. ISIS has perpetrated many other crimes against humanity as well, 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.

ISIS leaders should be prosecuted in the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their crimes. The U.N. Security Council should refer ISIS crimes to the ICC for investigation and prosecution. The UN and Regional Organizations should act swiftly and firmly, and follow-up with police force to arrest ISIS leaders.

**This statement has been endorsed by:**

**Andrew Woolford, Ph.D.**

President, International Association of Genocide Scholars  
Professor, Department of Sociology  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Ph.D.**

First Vice President, International Association of Genocide Scholars  
Assistant Professor and Director of the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program  
Stockton University  
Stockton, NJ

**Kjell Anderson**

Second Vice President, International Association of Genocide Scholars  
Coordinator, Masters Program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation  
The Netherlands

**Dr. Stephanie Wolfe**

New Media-Communications, International Association of Genocide Scholars  
Weber State University  
Ogden, UT

**Prof. Israel W. Charny, Ph.D.**

Executive Director, Institute on the Holocaust & Genocide  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Former President, IAGS

**Gregory H. Stanton, J.D., Ph.D.**

President, Genocide Watch  
Professor, George Mason University, Arlington, VA  
Former President, IAGS

**Amy Fagin**

IAGS Advisory Board  
New Salem, MA

**Dr. Adam Muller**

Associate Professor  
Department of English, Film, & Theatre  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
IAGS Advisory Board

**Dr. Melanie O'Brien**

TC Beirne School of Law  
University of Queensland, Australia  
Editor, Genocide Studies and Prevention  
IAGS Advisory Board

**Prof. Hannibal Travis**

Florida International University College of Law  
Miami, FL  
IAGS Advisory Board  
Douglas Irvin-Erickson, Ph.D.  
Director, Genocide Prevention Program  
School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution  
George Mason University  
Arlington, VA  
Editor, Journal of Genocide Studies and Prevention

**Dr. Mohammed Hussein Ahmed, PhD**

Professor of Linguistics  
University of Garmian  
Kurdistan, Iraq

**Ruth Amir, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer  
Yezreel Valley College  
Israel

**Maral N. Attallah**

Lecturer of Ethnic & Genocide Studies  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA

**Dr. Janja Bec-Neumann**

Distinguished Scholar  
Vojvodina, Serbia

**Sara E. Brown**

Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Clark University  
Worcester, MA

**Jean-François Bussière-Wallot, LLM**

Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada

**Prof. Stephen L. Egbert, PhD**

Department of Geography  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

**Sarah Federman, Ph.D.**

Director of Corporate Accountability and Genocide Prevention  
School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution  
George Mason University  
Arlington, VA

**Dr. Marcello Flores**

University of Siena  
Italy

**Prof. Karen Frostig, Ph.D.**

Lesley University  
Cambridge, MA  
Resident Scholar  
Brandeis University

**Adam Jones, Ph.D.**

Professor of Political Science  
University of British Columbia  
Canada

**Dr. Zachary D. Kaufman**

Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Dr. Mark D. Kielsingard,**

Assistant Professor of Law  
City University of Hong Kong  
Peoples Republic of China

**Dr. Theodosios Kyriakidis**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
St. George Peristereota Research Centre  
Thessaloniki, Greece

**John Liffiton BSc,MA**

Director, Genocide Conference  
Scottsdale Community College  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Beth E. Lilach**

Senior Director of Education and Community Affairs  
Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center  
Glen Cove, NY

**Nikki Marczak**

Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Brisbane  
Australia

**Abigail Miller**

Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Clark University  
Worcester, MA

**Rubina Perroomian, Ph.D.**

UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA

**Heidi M. Ravven, Ph.D.**

Professor of Religious Studies  
Hamilton College  
Clinton, NY

**Dr. Elihu D Richter, MD, MPH**

Jerusalem Center for Genocide Prevention  
Jerusalem, Israel

**Ariel Ricker**

Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**John K. Roth**

Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy  
Claremont McKenna College  
Claremont, CA

**Emily Sample**

Associate Director of Education  
Holocaust Museum Houston  
Houston, TX

**Marc I Sherman, MLS**

Chief Librarian  
Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jerusalem, Israel

**Robert Skloot, Professor Emeritus**

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, WI

**Prof. Colin Tatz**

Australian National University  
Canberra, Australia

**Mohammed H. Tofiq**

Kurdish Author  
Kurdistan, Iraq

**Dr. Andrekos Varnava**

Fellow of the Royal Historical Society  
Senior Lecturer in Imperial and Military History  
School of History and International Relations  
Flinders University  
Adelaide, Australia

**Prof. Margaret Urban Walker**

Donald J. Schuenke Chair  
Philosophy Department  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee, WI

**Dr. Gregory Weeks**

The Human Security Initiative  
Vienna, Austria

**Eve Zucker, Ph.D.**

Sociocultural Anthropologist  
Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights  
Rutgers University  
Newark, NJ