



VIRTUAL COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

6-10 JULY 2020

Interactive Discussion III: Global programmes on Countering Terrorist Travel, Returning Foreign Terrorists Fighters (FTFs), including their Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

8 July 2020, 11:30 -13:00 EST

Concept Note

The foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) phenomenon presents Member States with a complex set of challenges, from prevention to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. The ability of FTFs to travel using air, sea, and ground modes of transportation remains a serious concern as they seek to return undetected to their home countries or relocate to other conflict zones or fragile areas. Against this backdrop, the Security Council adopted resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) to address, *inter alia*, the transnational threat of FTFs through the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data systems, and through comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies, for suspected terrorists including their family members, in accordance with international law, including international human rights, refugee and, as applicable, humanitarian law.

The situation of FTFs in detention and associated women and children in camps like Al-Hol and Al-Roj in the Syrian Arab Republic is cause for grave concern, as highlighted by the Secretary-General in his last reports to the Security Council on the threat posed by ISIL. Exacerbating the security, human rights and humanitarian conditions in the camps, the uncertainty and fear generated by COVID-19 is adding to protection and security concerns. COVID-19 contamination in the camps could further complicate and deter already slow progress in the repatriation of third country nationals to their country of nationality, despite the urgency of the situation.

To respond to these challenges, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has developed with its partners two flagship programmes: (1) the Global Framework on United Nations Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq; and (2) the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. **The Global Framework** establishes a “whole-of-UN” approach jointly coordinated by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in UNOCT and UNICEF (on child protection issues) to provide support for



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the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, who may have alleged or actual links or family ties to designated terrorist groups. This Framework has two objectives, underpinned by sex- and age- differentiated approaches: i) to respond to the humanitarian assistance and protection needs of children and adults; and ii) to support requesting Member States to promote security and address accountability for offences allegedly committed by returning adults.

The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (www.un.org/cttravel) was launched in May 2019 to assist Member States in building up their interagency detection capacity by establishing Passenger Information Units (PIUs) to proactively use passenger information (API/PNR) international databases, and international information exchange, to detect and counter terrorists and serious criminals. The Programme is supporting 36 Member States, including digital solutions such as online training, and is developing a maritime component to its technical assistance.

- *UN Countering Terrorist Travel programme: desired impact and plans*
- *Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR) under the Global Framework on UN Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic*
- *Children affected by terrorism, particularly in the context of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) phenomenon*
- *Global Programme on Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*