



4 February 2021

Esteemed colleagues,

I would like to express my gratitude for your letter dated 7 December 2020, in which you kindly offer your congratulations on my recent appointment as Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. I am very thankful for your message and look forward to the opportunity of meeting all the members of your coalition and working together to address matters of common concern.

In your letter, you present the work and priorities of your coalition in supporting collective efforts to strengthen Iraq's capacity to prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. You also call for Iraq to uphold its responsibility to protect all communities in the country, particularly those who are more vulnerable and therefore at enhanced risk. You make a clear connection between the importance of reparations and other accountability elements and the imperative of prevention. I cannot but fully agree on the importance of addressing the entire range of elements connected to transitional justice in order to build a future in which all communities can feel represented and where the risk of commission of atrocity crimes is significantly reduced.

Building upon the efforts of my predecessor, I intend to work with my colleagues at the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) and at the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in promoting efforts to achieve full accountability and to strengthen the collective ability to move forward. I also intend to discuss these matters with the government of Iraq and with relevant international interlocutors, with the view of supporting ongoing efforts in this direction and of expressing concerns when they exist. When this is possible, it is also my intention to visit the country in order to help advance this agenda. Part of this work will also involve supporting religious leaders and actors, in implementation of the Inter-Faith Statement on the Victims and Survivors of ISIL adopted in March 2020 with my Office's support.

Mr. Bojan Gavrilovic
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In conducting these priorities, in Iraq and elsewhere, I consider that grassroots organizations such as the ones represented in your coalition constitute essential partners. Ultimately, real change requires strong coordination among a range of interlocutors and can only be fully achieved when its impact can be felt by every citizen in every town and village in the country. For this, work at the grassroots level remains essential and I will be honoured to support it.

I look forward to our continued cooperation and thank you once again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Nderitu' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Alice Wairimu Nderitu
Under-Secretary-General
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General
on the Prevention of Genocide