HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON

COUNTER-TERRORISM

#UNitetoCounterTerrorism

United Nations

28-29 JUNE 2018

New York

Side-Event on: FTF Returnees: Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

JUNE 29, 13:15 – 14:30, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

The outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011 triggered what historians and researchers have called the 'fourth wave' of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). This fourth wave triggered more concern and received more attention than earlier waves. It is estimated that more than 40,000 individuals from almost 120 countries around the world responded to call from transnational terrorist organisations, like Al Qaida and ISIS, that used conflict zones as their safe haven. The unprecedented number of FTFs who flocked to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, their diversity, composition, different motivations, and most importantly, the possibility of committing domestic terrorist acts upon their return has created challenges to officials, policymakers and practitioners.

Today, with the military defeat of ISIS in Iraq and many parts of Syria, the FTF phenomenon has changed and many FTFs are now returning to their country of origin, or are going to third countries. This presents the international community with new challenges on rehabilitation and reintegration that Member States and regional organizations have had to address in an urgent manner learning important lessons along the way. "How Should We Deal with Them" is today the most asked global questions that needs to be answered not just in the short term, but also as long-term engagements to ensure that they do not pose a risk.

Aims and Composition of the Side Event

The aim of this side event is shed more light by senior officials and experts who have worked on the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs.

It seeks to provide an opportunity to Members States to express their own concerns, challenges, and perspectives regarding the phenomenon of returning FTFs. It also aims to assist Members States in countering this challenge by discussing the outcome of one of the latest research projects on the subject, the experience of Mohamed Ben Naif Counselling and Care Centre, and the lessons that can be learned from the reintegration of returning FTFs in Europe.

The Side Event will consist of three main presentations. The first will address the threat, challenges and main lessons learned in the European Union as FTFs have returned from Iraq and Syria. The second will discuss the outcomes of the UNCCT research project on Enhancing the Understanding of the FTF Phenomenon and how these can be used in developing effective policies to address the rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs. The project sheds important lights on the key motivations and diversity of FTFs, a necessary knowledge to devise effective reintegration programs.

The third presentation will address how the Mohamed Ben Naif Counselling and Care Centre in Saudi Arabia, the biggest and one of the main pioneers of deradicalisation and rehabilitation programs in the world, has tackled the FTF phenomenon.

The Permanent Mission of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations

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13:15-13:25   OPENING REMARKS

- H.E Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
  Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN /
  Chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board
- Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
  Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism
  Executive Director, UNCCT

13:25-13:40   RETURNING FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS: THREAT, CHALLENGES AND MAIN LESSONS LEARNED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Mr. Gilles de Kerchove
  EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

13:40-13:50   PRESENTATION OF THE UNCCT REPORT "ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FTF PHENOMENON" – WHAT IT MEANS TODAY

- Professor Hamed El-Said
  UNCCT Expert

13:50-14:05   PRESENTATION BY MOHAMED BEN NAIF COUNSELLING AND CARE CENTRE IN SAUDI ARABIA

- Dr. Wnyan Obied Alsubaiee
  Assistant Director

14:05-14:20   OPEN DISCUSSION

14:20-14:25   MODERATOR SUMMARY

14:25-14:30   CLOSING REMARKS

- H.E Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
  Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN /
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