



## **Factsheet**

### **International ISIL (Da'esh) crimes committed against LGBTQ men and boys**

Launch of investigation: late 2022

#### **SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION**

The investigation focused on ISIL (Da'esh) crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals across affected communities. The investigation covered ISIL (Da'esh)-controlled territories in Iraq from June 2014 onwards, with a particular focus on key events and locations where ISIL (Da'esh) policies and practices targeting LGBTQ individuals were documented.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF VICTIM GROUP**

ISIL (Da'esh) targeted individuals who identified themselves or were perceived as LGBTQ, regardless of their religious affiliation. The victim group primarily consisted of boys and men.

#### **MAIN LOCATIONS/AREAS**

Crimes committed against LGBTQ individuals took place across the territory controlled by ISIL (Da'esh). Mosul was a significant area where many reports of crimes against LGBTQ victims were documented.

#### **MAIN INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES**

As part of its work, the Investigative Team screened and/or interviewed several witnesses. It also collected documentary evidence as well as large amounts of open-source information, including ISIL (Da'esh) propaganda. The Investigative Team conducted one field mission to Mosul to identify locations of LGBTQ executions.

#### **COOPERATION AND OUTREACH**

The Investigative Team met with NGOs to gain a better understanding of the situation faced by LGBTQ individuals in Iraq. These organizations shared valuable insights into crimes committed against this community by ISIL (Da'esh).



## OVERVIEW OF FACTUAL FINDINGS

ISIL (Da'esh) followed a clear pattern in the execution of males on charges of homosexuality. Victims were taken to the top of high buildings and a judgment was read out loud against them. Afterwards, the victims were either pushed off the building or asked to walk off the building. If the victim did not die from the fall, ISIL (Da'esh) members would either shoot the victim or ask the crowd to stone him to death. Afterwards, ISIL (Da'esh) members carried away the body in their own vehicle, to an unknown location. The execution was carried out either by the al-Hisba (morality) or the al-Amniyat (security) departments of ISIL (Da'esh).

## OVERVIEW OF PRELIMINARY LEGAL FINDINGS

The Investigative Team found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that the crimes committed by ISIL (Da'esh) against LGBTQ individuals in Iraq may amount to the:

- **war crimes** of murder and torture;
- **crimes against humanity** of murder, torture and persecution on gender grounds.