

## **Selected Leader Statements on International Efforts to Counter ISIL And Support the People of Iraq and Syria**

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**Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Arabi:** “Arab League chief Nabil Al-Arabi on Sunday called for a military and political confrontation with Islamic State jihadists and other militants he said threatened the existence of Arab states. ‘What is needed is a clear decision for a comprehensive confrontation, militarily and politically,’ Arabi said at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers, a day after he and US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed taking action against the jihadist group that controls swathes of Iraq and Syria... ‘What is happening in Iraq is that the terrorist organization not only threatens a state’s authority, but threatens its very existence and the existence of other states,’ he said.” [AFP, [9/7/14](#)]

**Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott:** “I refuse to call this hideous movement ‘Islamic State’ because it’s not a state; it is a death cult. In good conscience ... Australia cannot leave the Iraqi people to face this horror, this pure evil, alone or ask others to do so in the name of human decency what we won’t do ourselves. It is right to do what we prudently and proportionately can to alleviate this suffering, to prevent its spread and to deal with its perpetrators.” [Prime Minister Tony Abbott Statement, [9/1/14](#)]

**Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper:** “Canada condemns the systematic campaign of persecution that is being perpetrated in the city of Mosul, Iraq, by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ... The very notion of religious freedom is what ISIS is working to eradicate and what the Iraqi people and the international community cannot surrender.” [Prime Minister of Canada – Statement, [7/22/14](#)]

**Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird:** “ISIL’s barbaric and expansionist advance in Syria and Iraq is further destabilizing the region and poses a very real threat to not only regional but also global security. Canada has taken action with the government of Iraq and our allies to counter ISIL’s activities... Canada will not stand idly by while ISIL continues to murder innocent civilians, including members of ethnic and religious minorities.” [Government of Canada, [9/3/14](#)]

**French President François Hollande:** “Are we going to participate in a coalition at the request of Iraqi authorities, in the respect of international law, to fight this terrorist group? The response is yes.” [Reuters, [9/5/14](#)]

**French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius:** “Fabius said in a speech in Paris that ‘we will participate, if necessary, in military air action’ in Iraq, according to a text provided by the French Foreign Ministry... [T]he determination of the Daesh butchers is strong. Ours must be even stronger.” [Associated Press, [9/10/14](#)]

**Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja:** “ISIS has turned out to be perhaps the most ruthless terrorist organisation of our time. It has committed outright genocide or at least acts similar to a genocide... Taking action against it was absolutely inevitable.” [Helsinki Times, [8/12/14](#)]

**Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania:** “We fully support what the United States is doing to eradicate these barbarians. And we have developed quite an institutional building experience that will help probably the Iraqis to put together their own armed forces. Training, exercises, these are the things that can come to our mind ... trying to achieve, I think, Georgia continuing role, supportive role in that and we can also discuss further in our security cabinet how best we can support the allies.” [Joint Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, [9/7/14](#)]

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel:** “The far-reaching destabilisation of an entire region affects Germany and Europe ... Ladies and gentlemen, when terrorists take control of a vast territory to give themselves and other fanatics a base for their acts of terror, then the danger rises for us, then our security interests are affected.” [Reuters, [9/1/14](#)]

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel:** “We have the opportunity to save lives and stop the further spread of mass murder in Iraq ... We have the chance to prevent terrorists from creating another safe haven for themselves. We must take this chance.” [AFP, [9/1/14](#)]

**Egypt Grand Mufti Dr. Shawqi Allam:** “An extremist and bloody group such as this poses a danger to Islam and Muslims, tarnishing its image as well as shedding blood and spreading corruption.” [Reuters, [8/12/14](#)]

**Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono:** “We do not tolerate it, we forbid ISIS in Indonesia... This is a new wake-up call to international leaders all over the world, including Islamic leaders... All leaders must review how to combat extremism. Changing paradigms on both sides are needed – how the West perceives Islam and how Islam perceives the West... The philosophy of ISIS stands against the fundamental values we embrace in Indonesia.” [AFP, [8/21/14](#)]

**Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi:** “Speaking before parliament, [Iraqi Prime Minister Haider] Al-Abadi vowed to ‘back the military operations in all the areas of confrontation against the armed gangs and the forces of terrorism and ensuring their continuation till victory is achieved.’” [AP, [9/8/14](#)]

**Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari:** “US President Barack Obama's plan for an international anti-jihadist coalition is a ‘strong message of support’ for Baghdad and its fight against militants, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Saturday. ‘We welcome that, and we have repeatedly called on our international partners for help and support because this threat is a very deadly threat... not only to the people of Iraq or the region, but to Europe, to America, to NATO,’ Zebari told AFP. ‘This is basically our fight... but we need the support -- our capacity is limited, and we need the support to enhance our capacity,’ he said.” [AFP, [9/6/14](#)]

**Iraqi Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia’ Al-Sudani:** “‘We are facing a terrorist monster,’ Iraqi Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani told the [UN Human Rights Council], decrying acts ‘equivalent to genocide and crimes against humanity.’” [AFP, [9/1/14](#)]

**Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti:** “Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti said ISIS represents a ‘new terrorist threat’ not just for Iraq and Syria but also for Europe. Pinotti stressed the need to ‘use all means available to contain and overcome this threat.’” [ANSA Rome, [9/9/14](#)]

**King Abdullah II Of Jordan:** “The crisis in Syria has shown that transnational terrorists have no regards for borders as well as the challenge that we face when those terrorist organisations, or those extremists, return back to their host countries. Obviously, we have seen that effect in Iraq also. So, these are part of the discussions we will have today.” [Jordan Times, [6/24/14](#)]

**Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah Khaled Al Sabah:** “We denounce vehemently the practices of those who use Islam as a pretext to kill and displace en masse Iraqis and Syrians.” [AFP, [8/30/14](#)]

**Latvian President Andris Bērziņš:** “We express our support and solidarity with the US in their fight with terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere.” [President Of Latvia – Release, [9/3/14](#)]

**Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak:** “The actions of the Islamic State (IS) militants in Syria and Iraq run counter to our faith, our culture, and our common humanity. They are against the teachings of the Prophet, a man of peace and moderation; and against Islamic law, which prizes the protection of life above all... We deplore those responsible and call on the international community to act in concert to prevent further violence.” [The Star, [8/28/14](#)]

**Maldivian Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon:** “The Maldives strongly condemns the crimes committed against innocent civilians by the organization which identifies itself as the ‘Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant’ or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. (ISIL or ISIS). IS is using the veil of religion as a pretext for inflicting terror, and committing violations of human rights. Their philosophy blatantly violates the fundamental principles of peace, tolerance and unity which are advocated by Islam, and their actions have tarnished the world’s perception of our great religion. A religion of peace and tolerance.” [Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Republic of Maldives, [8/27/14](#)]

**NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen:** “I encourage all Iraqi political leaders to stand behind the new government to ensure it addresses the legitimate interests and aspirations of all Iraqis. Their support will be essential to defeat the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which poses a grave threat to the Iraqi people, to the wider region, and to our nations. At the NATO Summit in Wales, we reaffirmed our commitment to the NATO-Iraq partnership. Should the Iraqi government request it, we stand ready to consider measures within the framework of the Alliance’s Defence Capacity Building initiative to assist Iraq in its efforts to build more effective security forces.” [NATO, [9/9/14](#)]

**Qatari Foreign Minister Khaled al-Attiyah:** “Qatar does not support extremist groups, including ISIS, in any way. We are repelled by their views, their violent methods and their ambitions... The vision of extremist groups for the region is one that we have not, nor will ever, support in any way.” [Reuters, [8/23/14](#)]

**King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Of Saudi Arabia:** “If neglected I'm sure they [terrorists] will reach Europe in a month and America in another month ... The evils of terrorism must be fought with force, reason and speed.” [Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, [8/30/14](#)]

**Grand Mufti Of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh:** “Young people should not let themselves be influenced by calls for jihad ... on perverted principles... It is a great misfortune that our youths are being exploited to fuel sedition.” [AFP, [8/28/14](#)]

**Grand Mufti Of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh:** “Extremist and militant ideas and terrorism which spread decay on Earth, destroying human civilisation, are not in any way part of Islam, but are enemy number one of Islam, and Muslims are their first victims.” [Reuters, [8/19/14](#)]

**U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron:** “...the alliance was clear about the scale of the threat from Islamist extremism. And we agreed we must use all the instruments at our disposal, humanitarian, diplomatic and military, to squeeze this barbaric terrorist organization out of existence ... The fight against ISIL must be led by the Iraqis themselves, but we will continue to encourage countries in the region to support this effort and to engage allies across the world.” [Prime Minister Cameron Remarks at NATO Summit, [9/5/14](#)]

**United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:** “The people of Iraq — all Iraqi people — need security. Yet, the poison of hatred and brutality is spreading. The so-called ‘Islamic State,’ IS, is a threat to Iraq, Syria and the region. I am profoundly dismayed by its barbaric acts, including accounts of summary executions, boys forcibly taken from their homes to fight, and girls abducted or trafficked as sex slaves.” [United Nations, [8/12/14](#)]

**Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Madani:** “None of the [Islamic State's] acts or principles align with the tolerant teachings of Islam.” [World Bulletin, [8/26/14](#)]

**Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Iyad Ameen Madani:** “The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani condemned what the terrorist group, ‘The Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS)’ is committing against innocent Christian Iraqi citizens in Mosul and Nineveh including forced deportation under the threat of execution; thus further tearing apart the social fabric of the Iraqi people. The Secretary General added that this forced displacement is a crime that cannot be tolerated; and that the practices of ISIS have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence.” [Organization of Islamic Cooperation, [7/21/14](#)]