



President El Sisi Meets with Nadia Murad, Yazidi Woman Who Escaped Daesh in Iraq

“Daesh negates the true Islamic values of mercy, tolerance and acceptance of the other.”

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi

On 26 December, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi received Iraqi citizen Nadia Murad at Egypt’s presidential palace. Ms. Murad is one of the Yazidi women who was kidnapped and assaulted by Daesh when the fanatical regime took control of Sinjar city and surrounding Iraqi villages in August 2014. Ms. Murad recently managed to escape Daesh’s captivity, and is informing world leaders and others about the horrors endured by her and many others.



In her meeting with President El Sisi, Ms. Murad recounted Daesh’s aggressive assaults on the Yazidis in Sinjar. She explained that terrorists justify their acts in the name of religion, perverting the rich history of peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Yazidis in Iraq.

During testimony before the United Nations Security Council on 17 December, Ms. Murad delivered a powerful message calling for the elimination of Daesh. She explained that she and thousands of other Yazidi women and children “were exchanged by militants as gifts.” Ms. Murad also noted that Daesh militants systematically rape thousands of Yazidi girls and children, indiscriminately murder Yazidi men and have institutionalized human slavery.

President El Sisi informed Ms. Murad of Egypt’s full and steadfast condemnation of all forms of terrorism and the heinous practices carried out by Daesh noting that such acts negate the true Islamic values of mercy, tolerance and acceptance of others. He also assured her that Egypt continues to stand by the side of the Iraqi people and is keen to provide assistance in their struggle with terrorism. He emphasized that Egypt will continue to embrace people of all faiths and will remain supportive of efforts that counter terrorism and extremist thought.



President El Sisi has encouraged and applauded Al-Azhar, Egypt’s prestigious institution for Islamic scholarship and discourse, for its diligent efforts to reaffirm the tenets of true Islam and refute the perverted interpretations that underpin Daesh’s barbaric acts, which Islam strictly prohibits. President El Sisi has continually noted that the Islamic civilization has welcomed citizens from different religions and ethnicities, appreciated their contributions and cultivated a society modeled on peaceful coexistence among different faiths, denominations and races.



COUNTERING EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY

“In Egypt, we are deploying a dual strategy of providing our citizens with renewed economic opportunity and promoting ideological change to reduce the pernicious influence of extremism.”

President El Sisi

- Recognizing that the defeat of Daesh and other terrorist organization's distorted ideology requires both a grassroots approach and transformation of the religious discourse at the highest levels, President El Sisi has called on Al-Azhar to renew religious discourse throughout the Muslim community.
- Egypt is encouraging leading Muslim scholars, clerics and theological centers to promote moderate and tolerant values of Islam while rebuking the false teachings that fuel terrorism.
- Egypt is working alongside religious leaders to expose and debunk the fraudulent arguments that stimulate extremist recruitment.
- At the opening of the UN General Assembly in September, Egypt announced the launch of the Hope and Action for New Destination (HAND) initiative in coordination with the United Nations and its member states. The initiative aims to embrace the youth of all nations and empower voices of reason and tolerance, so as to reclaim peaceful religious discourse and instill hope for a better tomorrow, free from the fear and uncertainty that extremism tragically creates.

