

6-10 JULY

8 July 2020, 11:30 -13:00 EST

The foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) phenomenon presents Member States with a complex set of challenges, from prevention to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. The ability of FTFs to travel using air, sea, and ground modes of transportation remains a serious concern as they seek to return undetected to their home countries or relocate to other conflict zones or fragile areas. Against this backdrop, the Security Council adopted resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) to address, *inter alia*, the transnational threat of FTFs through the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data systems, and through comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies, for suspected terrorists including their family members, in accordance with international law, including international human rights, refugee and, as applicable, humanitarian law.

The situation of FTFs in detention and associated women and children in camps like Al-Hol and Al-Roj in the Syrian Arab Republic is cause for grave concern, as highlighted by the Secretary-General in his last reports to the Security Council on the threat posed by ISIL. Exacerbating the security, human rights and humanitarian conditions in the camps, the uncertainty and fear generated by COVID-19 is adding to protection and security concerns. COVID-19 contamination in the camps could further complicate and deter already slow progress in the repatriation of third country nationals to their country of nationality, despite the urgency of the situation.

