

Statement by Germany
Sixth Committee
Universal Jurisdiction

Thank you Mr. / Madam Chair,

Germany has found universal jurisdiction to be an effective and proportionate tool to pursue

Further trials and convictions concern persons associated with Da'esh in the Syrian Arab Republic or Iraq who have returned to Germany. Due to the German nationality of many of the concerned, these may not be cases of universal jurisdiction; however they have led to interesting developments regarding the application of international criminal law. German courts have found that the occupation of a flat from which victims of Da'esh had fled can constitute the war crime of appropriation of property (§ 9 VStGB). Also, it was found that a mother committed the war crime of conscripting or enlisting children for handing her own child to a Da'esh military training camp (§ 8 Abs. 1 Nr. 5 VStGB). Both of these decisions are final.

German prosecutors are currently running over 100 investigations into international crimes. The message is clear: those who commit atrocities cannot feel safe. They will eventually be held accountable.

I thank you Mr. / Madam Chair.