

Murderous diehards have no place in society

Sir, Your editorial "Foreign Isis fighters must be seen to face justice" (February 17) is self-contradictory.

On one hand you claim that the foreign fighters who remain in captivity "include trained, battle-hardened diehards who pose a long-term security threat" should they return to their home countries. On the other hand, you conclude that governments "must press on with

efforts to detain and prosecute" with a view to "help[ing] them reintegrate" in society.

Murderous diehards, especially those who presided over beheadings, cannot and should not be reintegrated into civilised society. If the aim of prosecuting them is to effect their rehabilitation, then the Financial Times is embracing a dangerous delusion (including the notion that

some remaining diehards may be "innocent of terrorist intent"). Gavin Williamson, the UK defence secretary, is right to propose leaving them to local justice, for whether they are naturalised Britons or indeed born British, they have forfeited their nationality by their grotesque adherence to the barbarism of Isis.
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