



His Excellency Abdullatif Mohammed Cemal Rashid

President of the Republic of Iraq

Presidential Office

Baghdad, Iraq

August 3, 2024

Your Excellency,

The Iraqi Parliament enacted in 2021 the Yazidi Survivors Law No. 8 and recognized the crimes by ISIS against the Yazidi community, particularly women, as crimes against humanity and genocide. Your parliament took an important and valuable step towards illuminating a dark chapter of history and realizing our communities' right to the truth. With this law, your Parliament not only acknowledges the genocide against the Yazidis but also takes a crucial first step towards justice by outlining the measures and actions the Republic of Iraq will take to mitigate the effects of this devastation inflicted upon the Yazidi community and humanity as a whole. However, the failure to take concrete steps in areas such as finding and prosecuting the perpetrators, locating and returning the abducted Yazidis, investigating and identifying mass graves, and identifying and returning the remains to their families, diminishes the value of this initial step towards justice.

As Your Excellency is aware, the first condition to ensure that genocide crimes are not repeated and eradicated is to name the genocide; the second condition is to establish justice with the participation and approval of the victims, and to reveal the truths and experiences, not in political terms, but based on what they have personally recounted. The third condition is to create the environment and conditions for the attacked community and its social structure to rebuild their self-confidence, internal organization, resistance, and creative power. It is known that the most crucial step to prevent genocides before they happen is the internal resistance power and mechanisms of the communities themselves.

Within this framework that we bring to your attention, we, as Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA), call on the Iraqi government to constitutionally guarantee the socio-cultural and ethno-religious rights of the Yazidi people. TJA is a movement fighting for women's freedom and social justice. Our aim is to protect women's rights and contribute to achieving equality and justice in all segments of society.

The enslavement, rape, murder, and femicide that ISIS has inflicted upon Yazidi women and men are among the gravest crimes against humanity. The Iraqi government's recognition of these crimes as genocide is an official acknowledgment of this atrocity. However, despite this recognition, we observe that no concrete steps have been taken to guarantee the security and rights of the Yazidi community, and prevent the attacks by the Turkish state targeting the vital resistance and self-strengthening mechanisms and internal organization of the Sinjar people, who are trying to protect themselves from new genocidal attacks. Considering that over four thousand Yazidi women are still held captive by ISIS,

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sold on deep internet platforms, and hundreds of Yazidi children are deprived of their identities and are held by ISIS militants and their families, with new mass graves continuously being discovered, we find it difficult to imagine the immense destruction inflicted upon such a fragile community. The Yazidi community needs to be protected under constitutional guarantees. The lack of official status for the Sinjar region prevents this community from receiving the necessary support and protection.

Mr. President, on the 10th anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide, we expect you to take the necessary steps to end this human tragedy and ensure the Yazidi people's safe and dignified life. We thank you for your sensitivity, attention, and efforts regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tevgera Jinên Azad

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