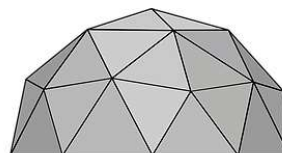


COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD)

97 SESSION



MALOCA INTERNATIONALE

REPORT ON IRAQ

SITUATION OF JEZIDI DISPLACED PEOPLE

Geneva, 26 Nov 2018 - 14 Dec 2018

REPORT ON IRAQ

SITUATION OF JEZIDI DISPLACED PEOPLE

“I will go back to my life when women in captivity go back to their lives, when my community has a place, when I see people accountable for their crimes”

[Nadia Murad, Kojo massacre survivor, Nobel Prize 2018 \(Published by “Freedom United. One Voice against Modern Slavery, October 5, 2018\)](#)

“The term "racial discrimination" shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

Art. 1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Introduction

In August 3, 2014 Islamic state in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS, attacked Sinjar city and all the villages that belong to Sinjar jurisdiction with trucks and military vehicles armed with advanced weapons. At the beginning the people, together with the armed forces who was protecting the town, resisted ISIS for more than three hours.

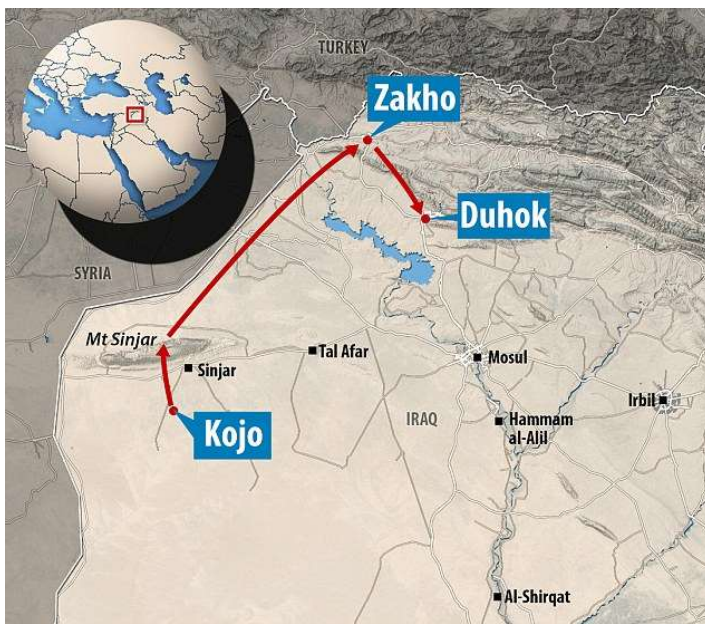
Military inequality due to advanced weapons which ISIS had, led to the control over the whole Sinjar city and its village by ISIS, with the support of Arabic neighbor's towns around the area of Sinjar City.

ISIS took control over all Sinjar as well as Nineveh plain. You can find below some statistics showing the extent of the tragedy. In the same day, 1300 unarmed people were killed and more than 6417 were captured, including 3547 females and 2870 males. Women were sold in the markets of enslaves in Mosul, Tal Afar, Al-Rigga and Deir Al-Zour; 340,000 people were displaced from Sinjar and 60,000 from Bashika, Bahzani and other areas to the Kurdistan region, some of them fled to Turkey and Syria. ISIS also blew up 68 religious temples, and Arab residents neighboring Sinjar city spoiled Yazidi villages, under the look of Arabic sheikhs and the support and protection of ISIS. As an inevitable result of this continuing crimes against Yezidis, about 100,000 persons have emigrated abroad seeking asylum in European countries. There are still thousands of Yezidis in the borders of Turkey, Greece and elsewhere, who are looking to be granted refugee status in one of the European countries.

Kojo village massacre In August 15, 2014.

In Kojo village, ISIS asked families to stay at home and they promised them to protect them and leave them live in peace. Then ISIS would send some of their fighters to Mr. Ahmed Jasoo who was the sheikh in the town. They demanded the

population to convert to Islam with ISIS giving August 15th as deadline to convert to Islam. After the population refused to convert to Islam, in the early morning of August 15, 2014, ISIS entered to Kojo; they took all people of the town to the school yard in middle of Kojo; families' belongings were taken from them, including gold, jewelry, money and mobile phones and their cars were stolen.



In red, the way some survivors of Kojo Massacre took to arrive in Duhok refugee camp. Source: Holdaway, Owen G. "Yazidi men survived ISIS massacre by playing dead in mass grave". Zakho, (Iraq) 14 July 2015. Published by "[Ghana Nation](#)".

Before the ISIS attack, the number of families living in Kojo village was 300, with 1,738 residents; 1,200 of these residents were present in the village during the ISIS attack. More than 400 men were executed, according to eyewitnesses who survived from that massacre.¹ Women and children were moved to various locations in order to disperse them and break up their families. According with our statistics the

¹ Names of survivors from this massacre: 1-Alias Qaim Saleh (city physician) 2- Khalaf khudid 3-khuder Hasan Ahmed 4 Keji Amo 5 Ali Abba 6- Safwan Abbas 7 - Khaled Murad 8. Said Murad 17. Idris Bashar 9. Saad Murad 10- Rafid Said 11. Jail Shafan 12. Salim Khader 13 - Qasim Afdo 14 Nafed Hadi 15-Fares Shehab 16-Nawaf Murad.

number of individual killed in the massacre in Kojo was 459: 388 men, 71 old women. Enslaved girls and women reached 727 individuals; the number of orphans reached 42 children. Number of families with no survival individuals were 63; families with just one survival person were 47; families with two survivals reached to 17; while families where all members survived were 25 families.

Yezidis displaced situation.

There are 400,000 persons displaced to Kurdistan region from Sinjar city, Bashiqa and Bahzani. They are resettled in camps, incomplete buildings and even in the streets, inside and around Kurdistan. Due to the excessive pressure of enormous number of displaced people on the Kurdistan Region, and the refusal of the central government in Baghdad to help the Kurdistan region, displaced persons have not access to basic services.



Kurdish region within the Islamic Republic of Iraq, according with map published by [the Kurdistan Region Presidency](#).

The most prominent problems found in the camps, with additional suffering to the displaced people are: Schools and teaching staff in camps are not enough for students; the financial situation of the families is critical because of the high unemployment rate. Spread of diseases, especially dermatology diseases among children; as most of roads leading to camps and inside the camps are unpaved, there is a general feeling of distress and unsafety, in addition to the accumulation of dust and dirt on the food of the families and the shops inside these camps; electricity is cut off for many hours in most of the camps, water supply is polluted and therefore unsuitable for drinking. There are many cases of poisoning and diarrhea among children, as well as many people suffering from lack of food. There are many insects in camps due to the lack of water and showers, as lice and scabies, which cause many diseases among children.

There are little medical staff in camps, especially to face emergency situations; there are not enough medication neither. In some camps, number of restrooms are not sufficient and a lot of people share them; in addition, some families have 9 to 8 members, living in one tent which enough space only for sitting, with a very low quality of life. According to the [Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic](#), in 2016 an unknown number of Yezidi people, particularly women and children, suffered psychological harm and trauma due to the genocide of the Yezidi religious minority in Syria and Iraq by Islamic State, and had no access to therapeutic services. According with our sources, registered suicides in refugee camps until March 2017 reached (28) cases, due to the psychological pressure and hard living situations.

Summary

Yezidi people are in a critical situation, living in camps with no proper access to basic services. Thousands of them need rehabilitation to carry out a normal social life and satisfy their basic needs. Hundreds of orphan children have no support, hundreds of elderly people are in lack of basic goods and services. Hundreds of sick people and disabled persons need healthcare and medication in displaced camps, dozens of them are waiting for surgical operations, with no money to afford them. Last but not less, thousands of girls and women are still captured by ISIS, especially children who are receiving military training.

Recommendations

- The State of Iraq, the International community, humanitarian organizations and NGOs should provide access to food, shelter, water, sanitation and therapeutic services to Yezidi refugees in the Kurdistan Region, including treatment of the post-traumatic cases and rehabilitation of the rescued male and females.
- Yezidis' heritage, cultural and religious tradition should be protected.
- Awareness against genocide should be put into the official educational curricular in the country.
- To enact legislation protect national, religious and cultural diversity and prevent religious discrimination.

- To establish a research and study center concerning genocide at the Iraqi universities, in particular a center of genocide studies.
- To open a national center to collect and publish evidences concerning genocide of Yezidis.
- To create a national museum and a public monument as a living memory of the Yezidi genocide.
- To improve the participation of Yezidis in political process, providing them with parliament seats in Kurdistan Region and rising their representation number in the Federal Parliament.
- The State of Iraq should join Rome Statute and accept the jurisdiction of ICC.
- The Justice should investigate the situation and the Victims are to be compensated.
- The rescue of the Kidnapped Yezidis should be taken into consideration at the international level.
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- Yezidi Genocide should be recognized by International Courts.

Sources

- PINHEIRO, Paulo Sérgio, ABUZAYD Karen Koning, MUNTARBHORN, Vitit and DEL PONTE, Carla. "They came to destroy": ISIS Crimes against the Yazidis. Geneva, Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, 15 June 2016. A/HRC/32/CRP.2
- Final Resolutions of the International Conference on the Yazidis' Genocide. Erbil, 15.08.2018