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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Tournier La Page, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Situation of Ezidis (Yazidis) displaced people

Introduction

In August 3, 2014 Islamic state in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, 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 ISIS advanced weapons, led to control over 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 send some of his fighters to Mr. Ahmed Jasoo who was the sheikh in the town. They demand the population to convert to Islam. ISIS gave August 15 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 car was stolen.

Before 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.

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.

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

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.

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 Yazidi 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 not 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 not support, hundreds of elderly people are in lack of basic goods and services. Hundreds of sick people and disable 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.
- 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.
- Yezidis' heritage, cultural and religious tradition should be protected.
- Yezidi Genocide should be recognized by International Courts.
- Awareness against Genocide should be put into the official educational curricula 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 Yazidis in political process, providing them with parliament seats in Kurdistan Region and rising their representation number in the Federal Parliament.

Sources

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- Final Resolutions of the International Conference on the Yazidis’ Genocide. Erbil, 15.08.2018

Centre Zagros pour les Droits de l’Homme, Maloca Internationale NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.