

Intervention

Item 3 of the agenda

Arabic

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Madam President - Thank you for this opportunity

The Assyrian Christian Chaldean Assyrian minority, one of the oldest indigenous peoples in Iraq, is currently being subjected to ethnic cleansing as a result of mass killings committed against them because of their identity. These actions have led to a dramatic decrease in the number of Christians in Iraq since 2003, (1,000,000), having to leave their original home where they lived for thousands of years, and those who remain at home suffer the most difficult conditions, the first forced internal displacement.

Economically, the Assyrian Chaldean Assyrian people suffer from the loss of the greater part of their ancestral lands that they inherited from their forefathers because they were acquired by successive governments or occupied and used without their consent or migrated due to internal tensions or forced abandonment.

The Diaspora is also lacking in employment, and employment difficulties face discrimination based on religion, identity, party affiliation or language difficulty in the new region. Or its presence in marginalized areas lacking investment projects or infrastructure for economic markets. They also lack adequate housing and their children lose on education in schools and universities.

Recommendations to the Iraqi government, the Kurdistan Regional Government and the United Nations:

Activating the procedures that return land ownership to their owners, especially (the law of the Real Estate Property Disputes Commission

of Iraq), and taking action to cancel the effects of previous demographic change policies.

Taking positive measures to ensure the participation of the effective minority in economic life, including the establishment of investment projects in marginalized areas (especially areas in the Nineveh and Dahuk) that contribute to development and employment opportunities.

Finding durable solutions to the IDP issues, such as housing construction, job creation, building schools and universities that ensure students' right to continuity of education.

That the United Nations support such measures and monitor their implementation so as to ensure that the Iraqi Government complies with its obligations to respect human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

5. We invite the Independent Expert on Minority Issues to visit Iraq and learn more closely about the bitter reality of the Syrian Chaldean minority and other minorities.

Thank you for your listening