

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human Rights Council
Forum on Minority Issues
Seventh session

wk it
Kurdisches Zentrum
für Studien und
juristische Beratungen

Navenda kurdi
ji bo Man u rawojkartya
yasayi

4.)fii
jul...pi

YASA e.V.
Postfach
7624 53076
Bonn

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give this report on the situation of Kurdish people in Syria.

My name is Shadi haji. I am honored to be here today with my colleagues from the Kurdish Centre for Studies and Legal consultancies, YASA. Our organization advocates the rights of the approximately three million Syrian Kurds.

As you know, Syria is undergoing a bloody civil war between Assad's regime and its allied militias on one side and many other foreign and national armed forces from the opposition, most properly backed by regional countries on the other side. This war has turned Syria into a safe haven for international terrorist forces, which in turn have complicated the crisis in Syria, bringing any political and peaceful solution to a standstill.

Undoubtedly, minorities in Syria are the most vulnerable in this conflict, and their existence has come under a serious threat, because they are exposed to ethnic cleansing and genocide carried out by Islamist armed groups, while the Syrian regime, which has always pretended of protecting minorities, has kept silent and taken no action.

To protect themselves and their properties after the central government had withdrawn from the most cities and towns in the Kurdish region in Syria, Syrian Kurds have set up a joint self-administration, which also includes Arabs, Assyrians, Chaldeans and Turkmen. In addition to its administrative tasks in the region, which is also known as Western

Kurdistan; the self-administration is protecting citizens and their families and properties from the military attacks.

The barbaric attacks perpetrated by the radical Islamic groups and by the terrorist group ISIS against Syrian Kurds in the Kurdish region in Syria, especially in Kobane, are part of an ethnic cleansing against Syrian Kurds who live in their ancestral homeland. Kurds in Syria have been subjected to mass killings, and the kidnapped Kurdish women and girl have been brutally raped and sold in slave markets. Kurdish Children and women have been beheaded by ISIS in front of their families to spread terror and fear among locals in places they aim to attack. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Syrian Kurds have been forced to flee their home to Turkey and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

In the light of these events, we urge the international community to take a serious and responsible stance to call upon an immediate end for the systematic ethnic cleansing campaign against Kurdish people in the Kurdish region and help Kurds protect their national identity. As well, we call upon the Security Council to bear its responsibility to protect Kurdish people by taking a strong and decisive stand against these crimes, and by employing all necessary measures.

Therefore, we demand:

- I. The protection of the citizens of Western Kurdistan by creating an internationally-backed safe zone, like in other areas which experienced genocide and ethnic cleansing in the last century.
2. The application of the **1948** Convention on the **Prevention** and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which ensures that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity of their gross crimes they commit, will guarantee the rights of the Kurdish victims of ethnic cleansing and genocide.
3. The reconstruction of the war-affected areas in the Kurdish region
4. Facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes by imposing an internationally backed no-fly zone and a safe zone in Western Kurdistan region.

Finally, we urge the United Nations to take and enforce effective measures to prevent the ongoing genocide against Kurdish people, because the continuous occurrence of genocide against Kurdish people means that the international community has failed to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities to ensure the prevention and punishment of these horrible atrocities. Undoubtedly, the responsibility for preventing genocide lies with a number of actors which include regional and international organizations and civil society.

Human Rights Council
Forum on Minority issues
Seventh session
Geneva, 25-26 November 2014

VA
Kurdisches Zentrum
für Studien und
juristische
Beratungen

Navenda !curd
ji bo lekolin u
rawejkariya yasayl

J.111 cia JAB
z143:".11.111
LITULtrwivl

YASA e.V.
Postfach

A.p.b 4²1A19.0.4:1410
A.13 L61 .203 1:14 031'4..41 tea* Lr-c. LAL
tai.41," L:.11.4.)..114,kiillJ.41ILL,111.4ha.46.41.31_, 44.LA.
4.AL ..4....A1
i4u'EL.1 013L4 Loali j5.11 4r141.4,11.4
Zgebi 0.4 0teliile41
(IA 6-A 41.01k5.6 1.U1,.9 .412311 (SJ:q 119 "J6411 6/41.41-JaskYA
j)i aljLOA "PAP 41a.4b
. cs-ALAI 4,5- =1,1 441."11 ● 4.1r/coa '1.51u-4 col I-4-449 9a
„Sill Li kt.
1.u9..LA 4-A (5-.. 1:14 L-42-h:cal CIA 40.4% j441 41.A ti LaSli
.4_{14..3}-4411 J CA-c•JA.1 L3-.6 0.4 *410 Saqi
443 A4.4. 1.1.4.3i4 c.J1L4100 iall,"1,1j".A L.J•1011
j+..0.441.45 0:Al,"
;LOIS SLL;<‘u■ fi.111.11 LLusx4,si L,0 !.0W1 cslaku 6.1.44_./16i
`.114i.41111.495...Jyt.61 aot4
6-4 CLAW cr/z Jiy ‘0 1.45● JAHJ 4,1_016 j_cAll
1441s:VL_r14314i141.4.431 e14:1111:LAL.:aVt4milSt4.43 ,4111:1-4.41
Az.U.4114.1.:11.5.471 'LA) 611,o...A 4.06.
,,...4.4.411
:LapL.44L.1211 L14 ,iraj_511j_4.5.4. L4 01
LIS.41.L.9 441-1/5 JY I 0..4) jO-U51,3 14)49 cri eL.41 :43.1 41a. j419

„cab (161 0.441 LI ALL
tick, pLalliyLi.ai:6.le,11.4.14.c."=41.44 4±a. ulp.?„ 4:01
• 1411,8_41 ti.i.u..16,51.1.,j 161,1.;411 J5 col Esc)11 iZulg
0.91)
4:11-4 OA 61_34 e.)1-1.4.),)-C a4Ni
L11,ALAI i;14. kik'? 4.1"k.411',1111:111.4
Lrl-N-Ltil:Y.1-4- Lola c::JICJAVILANA 411:1J '51,-Alala.3.4'-421441'0.:2344-41
:.4 44, ti \$jail LD6,. alt! aL;tt Lki f9
LIN 0.4 01:Luofi .4;a. *
• _A-149117.1z1-4+04141cJer-t cpall 6)=11.31 (:),A APLli
(.,>.1411
sL411 cal41 3.111 ucji4tom-4.11i j 1948 1...1;i.pi..4.?..117,A4V1 '41.:61,1)
\pill .4 toizyl (.;_t?4_9(3_4, t.:j1.44.111 4.141 ca,.db
Y55ji c41 e51)41 U4L:11.AIO
.445 j...4," .014,,,S La J....AA,," itsac.) &Jai *
A-116A Y) (IAN s b:ve 411.U.4 L5.11 j &k,sC
sc..L,L411 *
1cg:s 4c.../9'-41..A.A2141 s vim
e g sy .124 47N:LLA· VI 4.10 (op J.S11 you21 C.4.%4:t4c 144 r.L.NI!..1. 4.1ja·
LIA L4.6 A4a 1.44 tzt.mcalst jLR (.1,61141t..4)0i
t_14 &t. L t:u4 41...131114 ti.taas 44)31
A4,4.91, 4444.11 4:-)1-41114' 40 1.44 A..6181 jui=11:1011 SILZ L.,lc el
lc.lp LA41 56)14 I
A-PL-411 11.-11Aaty 999